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[Colombo SUN 25 Jan]

ARAB LEAGUE RENEWS MANDATE FOR DETERRENT FORCES IN LEBANON

LD241724 Tunis TAP in English 1415 GMT 24 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, January 24, TAP--The Arab League Council met in an emergency session held Wednesday in Tunis at the level of permanent delegates and examined the request of renewing the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces (A.D.F.) in Lebanon.

Following its deliberations, the council decided to renew the A.D.F.'s mandate for a new period starting from January 26, 1980.

VOP REPORTS PALESTINIANS DEPORTED FROM LIBYA

NC280807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 28 Jan 80 NC

[Text] The Libyan authorities have deported a number of Palestinian officers who were in the Libyan Jamahiriyah at Al-Qadhdhafi's request during his confrontation with the Egyptian regime.

Meanwhile, the Al-Qadhdhafi regime continues its flagrant hostile actions against Palestinian citizens residing in Libya. Yesterday, the regime provocatively and inhumanely deported six Palestinian families numbering 54 people, including women and children. The deportees arrived at Damascus airport yesterday.

The deportees, who were in a state of extreme exhaustion, said that scores of Palestinian families are now wating their turn to be deported from Libya for no reason except that they are Palestinians who love their homeland, Palestine, and who support the PLO leadership and refuse to give in to Al-Qadhdhafi's threats and blackmail.

Observers believe that the deportation of the Palestinian officers followed U.S. assurances to Al-Qadhdhafi that Libya will not be attacked. This step also coincides with the normalization of Egyptian-Zionist relations. Thus, this step serves the Camp David plot and shows that Al-Qadhdhafi has decided to refrain from any confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

PLO CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MURDER OF HEBRON GUARD

NC010830 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 1 Feb 80 NC

[Statement by the military spokesman of Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command--announcer-read]

[Text] In reply to the repeated Zionist provocations by the settlers of Qiryat Arba' against our people in the occupied township of Hebron and its religious places, one of our revolutionaries from the internal groups yesterday eliminated a settlement guard by shooting him as he was crossing a street and seizing his weapon.

In reply to this, the occupation authorities imposed a curfew in the town and embarked on a campaign of searches and detentions. Scores of people have been detained, and the curfew and detentions are continuing in the town under the command of the Zionist general governor of the West Bank.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGES TO KHOMEYNI, BANI-SADR

NC301255 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar has sent a message to His Eminence Ayatollah Rohollah Mosavi Khomeyni congratulating him on the election of the first president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Republic of Iran. Brother Abu 'Ammar has also sent a message to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr congratulating him on his election as the first president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two messages affirm that the Palestinian revolution has been given new strength with this victory because the success of the Iranian presidential elections is also a victory for Palestine and the Palestinian strugglers.

VOP COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT 28 JANUARY SPEECH

NC292000 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 29 Jan 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] As-Sadat's recent speech, in which he dealt with local, Arab and international affairs, surprised no one. The head of the Egyptian regime has been in the habit of publicly telling us what the U.S. decisionmakers and their agents in the area are secretly thinking. As-Sadat, who is proud of his treason and his subservience to the United States, has not only given an accurate diagnosis of the traitor's morals but has also revealed the policy which the agents of U.S. imperialism are following.

In his recent speech, As-Sadat resorted to falsifying history in an attempt to mislead the Egyptian Arab masses, falsify the history of their struggle, leave them rootless and make them face the new facts--the facts of his surrender to and alliance with Zionism and imperialism and his hostility to the Arab nation.

As-Sadat's line of treason and propaganda does not deserve a reply. However, from a certain angle sufficient attention must in fact be given to it in order to confront his misleading propaganda to the Egyptian masses. The As-Sadat line, which depends on a policy of relinquishing Egyptian and Arab rights, depends at the same time on a misleading course in order to confuse the Egyptian masses and cause cracks in their memory.

As-Sadat depends on lies and distortion of facts, redrafting them as the basis for his attacks on the Arab nation, the Palestinian people and the Soviet Union, and as the basis also for depicting the importance of his surrender to the imperialist-Zionist plan. He is trying hard to poison the minds of the Egyptian masses about their relations with their Arab nation by depicting the Arab nation as ungrateful, as having exploited the blood and sweat of the Egyptian people and as not wanting the welfare and prosperity of the Egyptian people. He is also trying hard to give the Soviet Union a worse image by describing what he calls 'Abd an-Nasir's suffering at the hands of the Soviet leaders and their abandonment of him. As-Sadat puts all this on one side of the balance while on the other side he puts his friendship with his ally Carter, the brave, and his friendship with Begin, who keeps his word.

KHALID AL-HASAN COMMENTS ON JORDAN'S RELEASE OF PRISONERS

LD241411 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 17 LD

[Unattributed untitled report]

[Text] Arab political circles have welcomed the Jordanian decision to release 800 Palestinian prisoners as an encouraging step that will open the way for fruitful coordination and cooperation between the Palestinian leadership and the Jordanian Government in a manner that will lead to further successes in the current Palestinian-Jordanian dialog to serve the Palestinian cause. Commenting on the decision, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan told AS-SIYASAH that it is one of the products of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog and that it will open the way to cooperation between the two sides within the framework of the agreements reached during the dialog and stemming from the Baghdad conference.

Khalid al-Hasan pointed out that the positive results of this agreement will be the development and growth of the Palestinian liberation forces now present in Jordan and the enhancement of their training standard, especially since the recent appointment of a new command for this army. Al-Hasan described this command as a change for the better. He said that this encouraging gesture by Jordan came 24 hours before Abu Jihad's visit to Amman to continue certain aspects of the dialog.

Khalid al-Hasan said that the Palestinians who have been released represent all those who were detained in Jordan except for some elements with which we have nothing to do because they are subject to laws governing spying and other crimes.

DUTCH PAPER CITES 'ARAFAT BACKING FOR MIDEAST 'RHODESIA MODEL'

LD241051 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 16 Jan 80 p 3 LD

[An Salomonson report: "'Arafat Advocates 'Rhodesia Model' in talks with parliamentary delegation"]

[Text] The Hague, 16 January--PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat sees only two possible ways of settling the question of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination: A democratic secular state for Palestinians and Jews alike, using the formula which Ian Smith used for Rhodesia or else the creation of an independent Palestinian state on any territory "liberated" by the Palestinians.

'Arafat explained these two alternatives in detail yesterday evening in a 3-hour conversation with the Netherlands parliamentary delegation in one of his headquarters in Beirut. The Palestinian people, he said, are prepared to take part in a united states comprising several population groups with one government. We are asking what Ian Smith wanted for Rhodesia: Not self-government, not merely specific rights over which Israel reserves the right to have ultimate control but a united state based on equal rights.

If such a solution is rejected because Israel does not want to abandon the Jewish character of the state then, 'Arafat says, I am prepared to set up an independent state in any area which has been liberated. The Palestinian people are against a Zionist state because of its expansionist threat. Therefore the PLO has indicated the solutions according to which it thinks it is possible to live in the disputed area.

Right to Existence

Asked whether the PLO will be prepared to recongize Israel's right to exist--an aim which the second chamber linked with actual contact with the PLO when it adopted the Brinkhorst motion by an overwhelming majority last November--'Arafat did not give the seven-man Dutch delegation, headed by People's Party for Freedom and Democracy member Ploeg, any clear answer. According to him recognition is the most important card he has and he will only play that card when he can raise his flag.

'Arafat said he hopes Europe will contribute to a solution by making it clear to the United States that the Camp David agreements offer no solution.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS GREETS IRAN'S BANI-SADR ON PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY

LD311546 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD/EA

["Text" of congratulatory message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus to His Excellency Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr--read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran: We received with pleasure the reports of your victory in the presidential elections in the Islamic Republic of Iran. On this occasion we are pleased to extend to you on our own behalf and on behalf of the Omani people our sincere congratulations on the confidence shown in you by the friendly Iranian people. We wish you success in your endeavors for the progress and stability of your people. We are confident that the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our countries will grow and flourish.

[Signed] Qabus ibn Sa'id.

INA CITES BEIRUT PAPER ON BRITISH ADVISERS IN OMAN

JN311030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 January--The newspaper AS-SAFIR reports that the number of British experts in Oman has doubled in the past 2 months after a new team joined the Omani armed forces. In an exclusive dispatch from London today, the paper says that most of the British advisers who have recently arrived are experts in spying and electronic equipment.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN ISMA'IL RECEIVES LETTER FROM CASTRO

LD301644 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has received a letter from Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Councils of Ministers and State and chairman of the nonalined movement. The ADEN NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message concerns the development of events in Zimbabwe and attempts by the racist regime of South Africa to outflank the PF, to obstruct the London agreement on holding fair elections and to prevent the PF from actual participation in these elections. The message appeals to all countries of the nonalined movement to back the PF in its struggle against the racists and to achieve unconditional independence.

OMAN RADIO REPORTS PDRY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

LD311548 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD/EA

[Text] Reports reaching us from Aden say that the people there are in a state of anxiety and confusion after the failure of the 'Abd al-Fattah regime to provide adequate security, the collapse of public services and the (?intolerably) spiraling prices of basic commodities and foodstuffs.

The reports say that in a bid to assuage the wrath of the people, the Aden regime has resorted to publicizing a plan to raise salaries and lower prices. But the people of Aden, with long experience behind them, are aware of the true nature of these hoary old slogans put out by the agent regime.

UAE

AL-WAHDAH COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT 28 JAN SPEECH

NC290825 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0707 GMT 29 Jan 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 January--The newspaper AL-WAHDAH says that the attack which President as-Sadat made in his speech yesterday represented an attempt to get out of the isolation in which he is living at home and in the Arab arena. The paper's commentary says: The new attack which As-Sadat made in his speech yesterday is another attempt to get out of the domestic isolation in which he is living at home, where the results of the economic liberalization policy are putting him under pressure, and in the Arab arena, where the unanimous decision to isolate him and boycott his regime is still in effect. Just as As-Sadat sought to appoint himself a trustee of the Arabs by unilaterally signing the treaty of capitulation and the Camp David agreements, he is now attempting in his statements to appoint hinself a trustee of the Gulf area, its security and stability.

The paper adds: The leaders in the area have refused to be pawns in the game of international conflict and have rejected the alarmist concepts which Western circles are using to bring the Gulf area under their domination. As-Sadat considers this as a shortcoming in the political thinking of the leaders in the area. As-Sadat, who is trying to exaggerate the effects of the situation in Afghanistan, is actually attempting to suggest that the situation would lead to getting the states of the area on the U.S. bandwagon and this would lead to Egypt's emergence from its political isolation and economic situation.

YAR

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO UNIFY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH PDRY

JN311810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 31 January--The two parts of Yemen have agreed to coordinate their cooperation in the fields of postal services, air transport and telecommunications. The two sides issued a statement here today in which they agreed to apply an internal tariff for postal services that are in use in botn the YAR and the PDRY as of 15 February. The statement, which was signed by the ministers of communications in both parts of Yemen at the end of their talks over the last 2 days, points out that the two sides are now formulating the basic principles by which to render the postal services between the two parts an internal service and to coordinate the exchange of postal stamps.

The two communications ministers agreed to increase telephone channels from 6 to 12, to operate a telegraph service between the two parts, to install a new microwave network, to complete studies for establishing the Aden-Ta'izz microwave project and to use a unified area code for telephone services in the two parts. The statement asserts that the two sides also agreed in principle to restore air transport between the two parts.

MENA SPEAKS OF GAP, DISAGREEMENT AT HERZLIYYA

NC312135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2114 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpts] Herzliyya, 31 January--MENA has learned that the U.S. ideas submitted to the Egyptian and Israeli delegations to the meetings of the general committee for autonomy negotiations were not in the form of a written plan but merely ideas put forward by Sol Linowitz as feelers before formulating them into a plan.

It is obvious that the meetings held so far have led to nothing positive and that the picture shows a gap and disagreement. Diplomatic circles have affirmed, however, that this is not the end of the road.

The opening meeting of the eighth session of the general committee for autonomy negotiations, which has been postponed until 0930 tomorrow, is expected to be the first and final meeting in this fresh round of negotiations.

The heads of the three delegations will hold a press conference at the end of the final session tomorrow.

Khalil Dinner Speech

NC312252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpt] Herzliyya, 31 January--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has declared that there will be no lasting peace in the Middle East until the Palestine problem is settled. He said that the Palestinians are the absent party. We, he added, must do our best to have them participate in the peace process. Let us look to the future and forget the past, and we must not speak of the Palestinians as terrorists.

Speaking at a dinner given in his honor by Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Dr Khalil said: We must meet the challenges. We are not at a dead end and all parties are serious in their quest for peace.

Dr Khalil also said: I harbor no hatred for the Jews or anyone else. We must live together as human beings in peace. We have set an example in overcoming problems and we must work for the prosperity of our peoples.

He added: We fought four wars and we forgot them. We now have peace. After peace was achieved the withdrawals and the good relations between the two countries began. We must apply the same initiative to the Palestine problem.

Dr Khalil emphasized that Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg and all the members of the Israeli delegation share these views, and that without a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestine question there can be no lasting and comprehensive peace in the area.

Khalil Reception Remarks

NC010952 Cairo MENA in English 0900 GMT 1 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 1 (MENA)--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil said that he will present the People's Assembly tomorrow, Saturday, with a draft plan for the cancellation of restrictions imposed by the Arab boycott against Israel.

Dr Khalil asserted in a reception given in his honour last night in Herzilyya, Israel, by Israeli Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman that the real normalisation of relations between Egypt and Israel will be made according to the texts of the peace treaty between the two countries.

Answering a question on his expectations concerning the present session of Palestinian autonomy talks, Dr Khalil said that this is dependent on the Israeli reply today to the proposals brought by U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East Sol Linowitz.

Members of the Egyptian and American delegations to the autonomy talks attended the reception, which was held at Weizman's house.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM ON RECOVERY OF SINAI LAND, OTHER ARABS' STAND

LD311419 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 26 Jan 80 p 8 LD

[Ibrahim Sa'dah "Political Situation" column: "The Great Event"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Egypt celebrated the recovery of 75 percent of its occupied territory in Sinai. This is a tremendous event, but strangely enough some people did not give it the real importance it deserved, perhaps because the liberation and wresting of the land from the grip of the Israeli occupiers was not accompanied by a bloody war in which thousands could have fallen victim and we could have lost the greater part of our forces, weapons and resources.

What Egypt has done is not something over which it holds a monopoly or which is exclusive to it. Negotiation is one of the oldest political methods in the world. If this method has achieved success for Egypt, it will most definitely achieve the same success for Syria in regaining its territory and for the Palestinians in regaining their rights.

Egypt wanted to enter the negotiating chamber accompanied by Syria, Jordan and the people of Palestine, but it was compelled to enter it alone after the others refused to participate with it. However, Egypt did not forget Arab rights as it demanded its own rights. Egypt continues to insist on a comprehensive solution as a framework for its bilateral agreement with Israel.

If the Arabs had done what Egypt did, they would have celebrated with us the recovery of the greater part of their territories which have been occupied since June 1967 and from which only God knows when the Israeli occupier will withdraw.

The Egyptian people were delighted by the termination of occupation. We would have very much liked the Syrian and Palestinian people to share our joy.

'ALI SAYS ARMED FORCES READY FOR TASKS IN COMING PHASE

NC311236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--Minister of Defense and War Production Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that the Egyptian forces are capable of meeting any urgent request by an Arab country through the use of air bridges, which take only a few hours to reach all parts of the Arab homeland. The defense minister said that tasks of the coming phase are huge and great and that the armed forces are prepared for them, contrary to certain claims by those who think that the armed forces will demobilize some of their officers and men and will begin a period of relaxation.

In an interview published in Friday's edition of AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, the defense minister stressed that communism constitutes a direct danger to the Arab area. He said: We have a holy duty if communism threatens any Arab land.

He outlined that the armed forces would not be involved in conflicts within the Arab area. The rule is that we should not intervene in internal conflicts, because if we did, we would weaken one another and become a prey to coming or sudden danger.

Egyptian Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali warned that the Soviets want to encircle the sources of oil and reach warm waters. Furthermore, in the guise of ideology, he warned, the Soviets seek to destroy the Arab world. He said that the Arab region is the area of the oil resources, the coasts of which span the warm waters. Therefore, this area is the Soviet Union's prime target after Afghanistan. He affirmed that Egypt stands ready to discharge its pan-Arab duty of protecting Arab territory.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali noted that, despite political differences, there is a kind of military link between Egypt and most of the Arab states. He said that these ties are unbreakable, adding that Egypt spares no effort in improving the military capabilities of these states, irrespective of different political stances.

The defense minister reaffirmed Egypt's policy on the dangers facing the Gulf states. He said that anyone who endangers the Gulf states endangers the whole Arab entity, that Egypt will protect the Gulf states from any danger, and that it will stop anyone who claims Bahrain as part of his territory.

The minister said that in view of these dangers, the Egyptian Armed Forces might suddenly find themselves in a state of hostility [halat qital].

Concerning the military aid which Egypt has given Morocco, Egyptian Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that Morocco had asked for military aid and that Egypt responded to Morocco's request and supplied Morocco with weapons and ammunition, because Morocco's enemy was already within Moroccan territory. He said that the same principle can be applied to other states, adding that Egypt had implemented both the letter and spirit of the Arab collective security pact, which calls for backing any Arab state when it asks for help.

Asked about reports that during the recent incidents Saudi Arabia had asked for help from the Egyptian Armed Forces, the defense minister denied these reports, saying: This did not happen.

The minister also denied reports of the presence of Egyptian military forces in the Sultanate of Oman. However, as an afterthought, he said: If Oman asks for any kind of aid, Egypt is prepared to extend such aid in discharging its pan-Arab duty.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali spoke of the military cooperation between Egypt and the United States. He pointed out that the two countries have agreed that the United States will supply $1.5 billion worth of arms to Egypt over a 3-year period ending at the close of 1981. It was decided to increase the agreed amount by $350 million, in addition to the allocation of $800 million annually beginning in 1981 [as received]. The minister said that these are good omens, explaining that what is important in all this is the rapid supply of the required equipment and arms at the earliest opportunity--which will be discussed with the U.S. deputy defense secretary during his coming visit to Egypt.

The defense minister noted that the American loans to Egypt can be easily obtained at reasonable interest. These loans fall due after a 10-year grace period. He announced that in its dealings with the United States, Egypt has achieved equal treatment to that accorded to Israel by the United States. This means that the United States will treat Egypt on an equal basis with Israel as far as loans are concerned.

The defense minister noted that the recent U.S. arms deal with Egypt includes two important elements: sophisticated F-16 aircraft and M-60 tanks, in addition to missiles, armored vehicles and numerous other types of equipment requred for the armament of formations and engineering corps units as well as for the logistics needed to implement plans for the armed forces' movements.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali denied recent reports that Egypt has given the Americans military bases. In affirming that Egypt will grant bases to no one, he said that this action will insure that Egypt's free will and free decisionmaking power are maintained. He explained that the Americans have not asked for bases, and if they do Egypt will given them nothing other than facilities.

The defense minister added that Egypt's strategy in the area makes it appropriate at this juncture, and for the sake of the area's security and stability, to give the United States some facilities at some airbases when needed. These facilities consist of flying over Egyptian airspace and landing at agreed air or naval bases to refuel or ferry wounded personnel. He further explained that these facilities are not of a permanent nature, adding that all the equipment with which these air or naval bases would be equipped would then become Egypt's property.

With regard to some news reports on the presence of American experts in Egypt, the defense minister explained that the policy of the Egyptian Armed Forces is to send the most efficient Egyptian instructors to learn the required expertise from the arms-producing countries. These instructors are prepared for training officers and crews. As an example, the minister cited the success of this method in training Egyptian combat pilots in the United States to fly Phantom aircraft in record time as a result of their knowhow and their established combat expertise.

Therefore, the minister said, when seeking the help of foreign experts, Egypt confines itself to the narrowest limits, to limited numbers, to a specific period in the assembly of arms, and when maintenance and repair experience is not available, because training in maintenance and repair work requires more time than that needed for the training of engineers.

Asked about the possibility of the sudden occurrence of war before training in the use of the new arms is completed in Egypt, Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the process of changing military ideology continues with the successive arrival of arms from new sources. He added that the rearmament of any unit passes through training phases of specific and intensive curricula. He said that the differences between American and Soviet arms are related to some technical aspects and auxiliary supplies. However, from the standpoints of principle and of the basics of arms, these arms are considered the same. A unit to be armed with American weapons can accommodate them within a year, because some units will continue to be armed with Soviet weapons. However, the majority of units will be armed with American weapons within 5 years or less because some services, such as the air force, will change to American arms more quickly than other major services of the armed forces.

He added: This does not inconvenience us as long as spare parts are being procured for the Soviet and Eastern arms in general and in accordance with a sustained and clearcut plan which has nothing to do with the Soviet Union. He added that Egypt has abundant arms from Western Europe, affirming that these arms have been received during the past 5 years and noting that Egypt is still receiving arms from Western Europe.

As far as the Arab Military Industries Organization [AMIO] is concerned, the minister stated that the United States and other states have offered to finance the production of helicopters, because the plan for the production of this type of aircraft is the only one which has come to a halt in the AMIO. He said that Egypt's contacts with the United States also deal with the manufacture of fighter-bomber planes, such as the O.S.I., or helicopters.

AL-AHRAM: SOVIET CULTURAL ADVISERS' CONTRACTS ENDED

LD311329 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jan 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Council of the Academy of Arts has decided to terminate the contracts of 23 Soviet experts who have been training students from the ballet school and the conservatoire and to take steps to repatriate them.

Dr Rashad Rushdi, the academy chairman, said that the experts concerned have been working in academy institutions since 1960. Two years ago it was decided to gradually dispense with their services and replace them with Egyptians and art experts from friendly countries.

The academy chairman added that the academy has decided not to accept scholarships offered by the Soviet Union and that it has obtained 10 annual scholarships from the United States, Britain, France and the FRG.

EGYPT JOINS EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

NC311329 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--Egypt has joined the European Broadcasting Union to benefit from covering world events live for broadcasting in Egyptian newscasts. Audio and video broadcasts are actually being received via satellite and the ground station at Al-Ma'adi.

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, the vice chairman of the radio and television union, Husayn 'Anan, said that the operation would cost $800,000 annually and that 500,000 pounds have been appropriated for importing modern scientific and electronic equipment for developing newscasts in the most modern system in the world.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN COMMENTS ON U.S., USSR IN INTERVIEW

JN311113 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Paris, 31 January--President Saddam Husayn has cautioned against the fact that the United States "is seeking to exploit the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan to regain its influence in the region, thus adversely affecting the independence and vital interests of the Arab nation." He said the United States is using the method of "intimidating the regimes in the Middle East."

In an interview with the AL-WATAN AL-ARABI magazine published here today, President Saddam Husayn emphasized that friendships with international sides should not be transformed into "a disguise for subservience and proxy dealings on behalf of this or that international side at the expense of the Arab nation's interests and principles concerning independence and liberation." He said the imposition of influence on and unilateral dealings with the world by any power--whether the Soviet Union, the United States or any future power that might emerge--will bring "misery to the world."

President Saddam Husayn described the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as "a grave precedent" that will harm the Soviets themselves and the Arab area and will be detrimental to other nations in the world. He added that the most serious error committed by the Soviets in Afghanistan is that "they appeared in day to day political dealings as a big power and not as a source of principled enlightenment, as they had always been anxious to demonstrate in their conduct and dealings with countries in the world."

The president said the United States will use this Soviet conduct as a cover for a large-scale intervention in the region.

He did not rule out the possibility that the United States might search for a flexible formula in dealing with the Palestinian issue that appears more advanced to the Camp David formula. He said this formula "will seem relatively more advanced in direction and timing or in form and content than the Camp David formula, but it does not radically differ from it in intentions and trends."

He added that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan will place many Arab regimes in positions in which they will find "such a U.S. initiative tempting." He stressed that such a situation constitutes a serious development in the Arab stand, which will harm the Arab nation and its strategic objectives. He affirmed that Iraq will not change the trends of its general policy in its relations with the Soviets and "will continue its relations with the Soviet Union in accordance with a framework which strengthens Iraq's national independence and serves the Arab nations cause, wherever possible."

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the solution to the Palestinian issue lies in "the liberation of Palestine." He added that As-Sadat's step is not "an incomplete or inadequate model" to be followed, but is totally rejected and, therefore, it is pointless to look for a "better model." He added that As-Sadat's case is one of "collapse and treason and the required substitute should be a state of elevation and sincerity."

The president called for the mobilization of collective Arab efforts, despite the differences in the particulars of these efforts. He said this mobilization will succeed if it is kept away from peripheral differences which adversely affect the unity of the general trend, which expresses an acceptable level of joint pan-Arab action. He added that differences among the Arab countries and other factors continue to affect the general trend and the united mobilization to isolate the Egyptian regime. These differences also affect the continuity of this stand.

The Iraqi president stressed that it is important for the Arabs "to shun the influence of the big powers, which seek to achieve their interests at the expense of the Arab nations interests." He said: They should deal with these states in a healthy and legitimate manner within the context of serving the Arab nation's interests.

President Saddam Husayn said the Arab rulers should act with an independent political will. Their dealings with their peoples should be based on respect and active interaction in representing their interests and eradicating the manifestations of exploitation, corruption and abuse of power and resources.

He affirmed that the basic condition for keeping foreigners away from the Arab Gulf area is independent action, dealing in a fraternal spirit, respect for the freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf in accordance with international law, and keeping the area away from any bilateral rivalry that can be exploited for the entry of foreign influence.

President Saddam Husayn said Iraq's terms for establishing good neighborly relations with Iran are that Iran should respect the Arab nation's sovereignty, independence and right to deal with life as it wants. The Iranians should not erroneously imagine that they can save the Arab nation, because nobody saves this nation except its sons. He added that under this erroneous concept some Iranians want to pick on, harm and interfere in the domestic affairs of the Arab nation. The president said the Iranians should not also have the erroneous concept that there is a hypothetical or inevitable contradiction between any genuine Islamic revolution and the Arab revolution, because "the mere supposition or expectation that such a conflict or contradiction is inevitable makes the Iranians the enemies of the Arab nation."

President Saddam Husayn said the severance of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States is aimed at making the United States understand that "it is committing a gross error against the Arab nation." He added that there is no alternative to the severance of relations which is as strong and as eloquent to make the United States understand this point. The president said: When national and pan-Arab interests require Iraq to reestablish relations with the United States, it will do so without hesitation. He affirmed that Iraq is not absolutely and fanatically against dealing with the United States, but it supports dealings that are based on respect for the Arab nation's interests.

President Saddam Husayn analyzed in detail the situation in Lebanon and the ways to solve the crisis from which Lebanon is suffering. He affirmed that the main responsibility for improving the situation in Lebanon lies primarily on the shoulders of the Lebanese and the sons of the Arab nation. He called for finding a healthy state in dealings among the Lebanese political forces, between these forces and the people and between these forces and the authorities. He said the Lebanese authority should be looked at as the authority for all and not for one group or another.

He said there should be a stage of transformation from the current state of collapse to a better state in order to be able to emerge from the abnormal situation in Lebanon. The president affirmed that error and deviation exist in all fields and not merely in one field, but not with the same degree of gravity or harm.

President Saddam Husayn said oneupmanship is rife in Lebanon. The balanced Lebanese opinion does not have influential leaders, whereas the outbidders have leaders. This is a serious technical point that should be taken into consideration for serious reform.

The president said reaction, imperialism and the dark forces of evil are to found in most societies in general, but the Lebanese "opened their inner doors to these evil forces, which were lurking outside the outer fence or inside." This is one of the factors which transformed the state of strength into that of weakness. The divergence of communal sects and the multiplicity of parties became factors for destruction instead of being a good taste and a model for the Arab nation. Therefore, changing the situation is up to the sons of Lebanon.

The president said: If a healthy life was available, the Christians would discover the importance of Lebanon's unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty. The same thing applies to the Muslims of all sects. He affirmed that the Lebanese and the Arabs should ask themselves: "What do we want from Lebanon now?" They should not ask: "What do we want and desire for Lebanon; what is Lebanon enduring; and to what extent can one burden it before it kneels and falls?"

The president pointed out that some people in Lebanon call for firmness. Had this been a mere opinion, we would have respected it, but some of it is nonsense or expressions of foreign influences by proxy. Others call for leniency and justify lenient behavior to the extent of establishing a relationship with the Zionist entity. There are foreign influences behind both stands.

President Saddam Husayn called for "resurrecting the true spirit of nonalinement." He said the aggravation of the conflict among the big powers has taken a dangerous turn, affirming the importance of this resurrection. He added that the nonalined countries have a role to play in international politics which they should perform in a more active and accurate manner. He affirmed that the opportunity exists for rejuvenating the spirit of nonalinement that surfaced at the Bandung Conference in a manner that is more capable of influencing the international sphere and politics. He said the movement's conference in Baghdad in 1982 should witness practical formulas for expressing the movement's trends. The most important thing that can strengthen the movement's trends is finding a model for serious cooperation among the nonalined countries.

The Iraqi president emphasized that the entry of nuclear weapons into the Arab region is extremely harmful and dangerous. He said Iraq supports the idea of barring the use of the atom for military purposes. At the United Nations, it supported the idea of barring the Middle East area from using the atom for military purposes. On this basis, Iraq raises the issue of barring the Zionist entity from the possibility of using nuclear weapons. He added that Iraq is only concerned with having the expertise and capabilities to sue the atom for peaceful purposes. He affirmed that Iraq does not plan to possess the atom for nonpeaceful purposes, but for its correct employment in the fields of building and independence.

President Saddam Husayn said persons who are raising an uproar against Iraq in this connection know that Iraq has a long way to go to be able to use the atom for military purposes. By depriving Iraq, they aim at depriving the Arab nation of having the technical means of dealing with the atom in an efficient and sound way.

On the Iraqi National Assembly, President Saddam Husayn said that the establishment of this assembly is "a continuation of the democratic development in Iraq." He added that differences, but not conflict, will be allowed inside the assembly so long as any opposition has the basic objective in mind; namely, the service of the Arab nation. He said differences within the aforementioned context "will enhance Iraq's strength, property and ability, removing from it harmful manifestations in the domestic social and political life."

President Saddam Husayn called for a reassessment of the unsound production of oil and its unhealthy and wasteful consumption. He said oil production is not being done in a correct manner. Producers should bear in mind that the oil wealth is exhaustible and is a pan-Arab wealth. It is the right of the nation to legitimately benefit from it. Consumers, on the other hand, should put an end to their squandering.

President Saddam Husayn said oil wealth is also a human wealth. It is not right for an American, Frenchman, West German or Japanese to consume more oil than an Arab, an Indian, an African or a Latin American and in a manner that is harmful to the latter.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the real value of oil should be reflected in the price. "Since the world believes that all commodities should be measured on the basis of markets and competition, the oil commodity price should find its normal level in the markets and in competition."

President Saddam Husayn called on the Arab nation to use oil for the happiness of the present generation, taking into consideration the right of coming generations to a strong nation that is technologically capable and has an advanced and proper status among nations.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI DISCUSSES ISLAMIC CONFERENCE RESULTS

JN311543 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Interview with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sadun Hammadi, date not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you evaluate the results of the emergency conference of the Islamic states foreign ministers, particularly as related to the Arab cause and to opposing the Camp David plot and the normalization of Egyptian-Zionist relations?

[Answer] I am pleased to be interviewed by the Voice of the Masses, which reflects the struggle of the Arab masses for the sake of the fateful Arab issues and the Arab future.

As for the Islamic foreign ministers conference, the Iraqi delegation presented a draft resolution on the Palestinian problem, the issue of Jerusalem and the relations between the Egyptian and Zionist regimes. These issues were dealt with by the Iraqi speech at the conference. It was clear that the listing of the Palestinian problem, the issue of Jerusalem and the normalization of relations on the conference agenda was approved and welcomed by all the countries.

Actually, the Palestinian problem and the issue of Jerusalem are permanently lis ed on the agenda, because the Islamic Conference was originally founded following the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The draft resolution was a subject of deliberations with the Arab countries and with those supporting the Arab right, and it received collective approval. It defines the features of the Arab-Zionist struggle, stresses the rights of the Palestinian people and calls for a full withdrawal of the enemy forces from the occupied Arab territories and Palestine. At one point, the resolution explains that Camp David is purely and simply a plot among Egypt, the Zionist entity and the United States. It recalls the resolution that was adopted by the Islamic Conference in Fez last May, by which Egypt's membership was suspended.

I am pleased that all the Arab delegations, including Algeria, Libya, the PLO and others, supported this draft resolution. It will be published in the Iraqi papers (?tomorrow).

[Question] The United States is currently conducting a wide-scale aggressive move in the Indian Ocean and the Arab Gulf, on the pretext of confronting the Soviet surge. The events in Iran and Afghanistan have been a blatant excuse for it. Would you talk about the conspiratorial imperialist intentions in these two areas?

[Answer] This subject was of concern to the Iraqi delegation. We undertook wide-scale activities and meetings with the various delegations, in order to explain the other side of the international development resulting from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. We explained Iraq's viewpoint on this subject, which is summed up as follows: The Islamic countries conference is being held in accordance with the principles of the nonalined movement and not as part of the Western move against the Soviet Union, or within the context of competition and struggle between the two superpowers. Accordingly, this problem should be seen from two viewpoints--the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan and the U.S. reaction to this involvement.

The U.S. reaction is represented by the fact that the United States and perhaps its Western allies have grabbed the chance offered by the events in Afghanistan to restore the Western countries influence in areas extending from the Arab homeland to Southeast Asia. The U.S. and Western efforts to restore Western influence in this area are represented by a number of moves and (?hostile) actions. These include the U.S. efforts to obtain military bases or naval facilities in some countries and the U.S. naval concentrations in the seas of this area. There are also the official statements on the U.S. readiness to intervene to safeguard its vital interests in the Arab Gulf area and others. These moves include the formation of a quick strike force to intervene militarily in any areas of dispute.

Were it not for the Iraqi delegation, the conference would have ignored this U.S. reaction and would have centered solely on the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan. We explained how we drew the attention of the world, particularly the Western countries, to the fact that the Islamic countries are also interested in the other side of the subject, namely the Western activities resulting from the Soviet intervention.

TRADE MINISTER MEETS WITH CUBAN MINISTER

JN311224 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 January--Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, met here today with Hector Llompart Rodriguez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the results of the progress of the joint Iraqi-Cuban committee which met in Havana in December. They also discussed ways for expanding trade between the two countries.

BA'TH OFFICIAL MEETS WITH MOROCCAN DELEGATION 31 JAN

JN311434 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 January--Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member, met with a delegation of the Moroccan Independence Party led by 'Abd al-Karim Ghallab, Executive Committee member, today.

Haddad stressed the importance of the meeting between the Ba'th and the independence parties in entrenching their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism and in crystallizing the principles by which they confront the plots against the Arab nation and its central cause, Palestine. He also reviewed the Arab situation and the plots hatched against the Arab nation's dignity and pride. He stressed the need to mobilize all our Arab people's potentials in confronting the imperialist and Zionist challenges.

'Abd al-Karim Ghallab praised the Ba'th Party's stands on regional, pan-Arab and international issues. He stressed the Moroccan Independence Party's support for the Ba'th Party's steps in the political, economic, social and cultural sectors.

He said that these steps prove the Ba'th Party's originality and its deep understanding of the Arab nation's conditions, issues and basic needs.

The two sides reviewed aspects of cooperation between the two parties and means of coordinating their stands on Arab and international developments.

The meeting was attended by members of the Moroccan delegation Ibrahim al-'Ilj, Executive Committee member, and Muhammad al-Majdari, member of the party's National Council. It was also attended by Fu'ad 'Ali, director of the Arab Maghreb office in the Ba'th Party National Command.

CROWN PRINCE CONGRATULATES IRAN'S BANI-SADR

JN010812 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Feb 80 p 1 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent sent a cable yesterday to His Excellency Dr Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, president-elect of the Iranian Islamic Republic, in which his highness congratulated Bani-Sadr on his victory in the presidential elections. The text of the cable is as follows:

On the occasion of your election as president of the fraternal Iranian Islamic Republic, it gives me pleasure to extend to Your Excellency most sincere congatulations and blessings on behalf of the king, government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I confirm that the strong bonds of religion, history and joint noble aspirations which exist between the Jordanian and Iranian peoples and which we are always determined to uphold and promote in the interests of the two fraternal countries and their progress so that they can perform their civilized and human role.

May God grant you success in the service of the Islamic nation and its noble objectives.

INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVES ROMANIAN PRESS MISSION

JN311845 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] This morning, Information Minister Dr Sa'id at-Tall received the Romanian press mission now visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Press and Publication Bureau. Dr at-Tall explained Jordan's stand on the Middle East problem--a stand completely commensurate with the Arab stand which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly Arab Jerusalem, and for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to determine their future in Palestine. The information minister praised the cooperation between Jordan and Romania.

SYRIAN INDUSTRY MINISTER ARRIVES 31 JAN

JN311004 Amman JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Amman, 31 January--Syrian Industry Minister Dr Husayn al-Qadi arrived in Amman today on a visit of several days to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of officials. Dr al-Qadi will attend the semiannual meeting of the Syrian-Jordanian company for industry.

GOVERNMENT CANCELS RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL OF WORKERS ABROAD

JN301523 Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Jan 80 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 30 January--'Umar an-Nabulsi, minister of labor, reconstruction and development, issued an order today by which he canceled all restrictions imposed on the travel of Jordanians abroad for work. This is effective as of today and will remain in effect until a strategy is drawn up to regulate their travel by means of concluding bilateral work agreements with the states employing Jordanian laborers.

KHADDAM COMMENTS ON ISRAEL, OTHER TOPICS

JN010657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Feb 80 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has reaffirmed Syria's principled policy on the national, pan-Arab and international levels.

After delivering a speech in the Parliament of the European Council yesterday, Mr Khaddam answered questions by the members. He called for recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and for recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Mr Khaddam explained that Israel is the only state in the world which has not demarcated its borders because it believes that its borders extend to wherever the Israeli forces can reach. He said: We in Syria believe that the solution of the Palestinian problem lies in the application of the UN resolutions pertaining to this issue.

Answering a question on Lebanon, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: The Syrian forces entered Lebanon at the invitation of the legitimate authorities to put an end to the civil war there. He added: We would like to leave Lebanon as soon as possible. Our presence there costs us a lot and this is paid by the Syrian people. Those who are asking for Syria's departure have not offered Lebanon anything. We are ready to leave when the Lebanese Government asks us to do so.

Answering a question on the nature of normal relations that might be established between Syria and Israel, Mr Khaddam affirmed: We are not ready to establish good relations with Israel because normal relations and recognition are not part of the nature of peace in the area. We know that there is no state of war between Cuba and the United States. Nevertheless, the United States does not recognize Cuba. The important thing is to end the state of war. Recognition and the exchange of relations are matters related to the national sovereignty of each separate state.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, then held a press conference in the European Council building in which he affirmed that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East conflict and that there cannot be peace discussions in the absence of the Palestinian people or the PLO.

Answering a question on the reasons which led Syria not to participate in the Islamabad conference, Mr Khaddam affirmed: We do not believe that there is a more important issue than that of Israeli occupation. We cannot take part in an action that might obliterate the features of the occupation in our land. He said: The situation in Afghanistan has nothing to do with Islam or Muslims. It is a political matter related to international detente.

Mr Khaddam affirmed that Syria's stand in this regard is for the sake of all the Arabs. He said: We are confident and reassured that the Arab nation is always with us in repulsing the Israeli aggression. Our Arab brethren who participated in the Islamabad conference know the soundness of the Syrian stand.

Answering a question on the subject of Soviet academician Sakharov, Mr Khaddam said: I cannot understand how we can be asked to share in defending Sakharov at a time when more than 3 million Palestinians live in exile.

Answering a question on whether the Soviet Union asked for the conclusion of a friendship treaty with Syria as a result of Gromyko's discussions, Mr Khaddam said: I have not heard that the Soviet Union has asked for concluding a friendship treaty with the Syrian Government. Relations with the Soviet Union are relations of friendship and amity.

Answering a question on the lack of stability in international relations and on Syria's stand on international detente, Mr Khaddam said: International detente is not threatened only as a result of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. There are several factors which played a part in sabotaging this detente: the Camp David accords, which upset the balance in the area; the decision to limit nuclear weapons in Europe; the U.S.-Chinese alliance; the Iranian Revolution; and the economic situation in the world.

Mr Khaddam stressed that Syria's problem does not lie in Kabul but in the Golan. He affirmed that Syria will continue to adhere to its national, pan-Arab and international policies. He also affirmed that the Camp David accords will be defeated no matter what the sacrifices.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD APPOINTS NEW DAMASCUS, HAMAH GOVERNORS

JN311955 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad issued decree No 7 dated today, appointing Muhammad (Rifdi) as-Suyufi as governor of the city of Damascus, Muhammad 'Arif Qoshaji as governor of the province of Damascus and Dr Muhammad Khalid Harba as governor of Hamah.

ALGERIA

LIBYAN INCURSION REPORTEDLY REASON FOR 'CRISIS'

LD251103 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Jan 80 p 9 LD

[Unattributed report: "A Muted Crisis Between Algeria and Libya"]

[Text] A diplomatic report has revealed the reason behind the muted crisis between Algeria and Libya. According to the report, Libyan forces had penetrated 70 km inside the Algerian border. Algerian forces repulsed them. The two states have hushed up this military incident for various reasons. One reason is to prevent Morocco on the one hand and Egypt on the other from taking advantage of the dispute.

The report says that the Soviets were the ones who instigated the Libyans to breach the Algerian border. It is known that there are thousands of Soviet experts, Cuban and East German technicians and Vietnamese pilots in Libya. There are also at least 10,000 Soviet experts in Algeria. During the regime of the late President Houari Boumediene, the Soviets enjoyed unlimited facilities. These facilities are now being limited by President Chadli Bendjedid. This vexed the Soviets, who instigated the Libyans and spurred them to stage the military operation.

Two weeks ago NOW magazine, which is published in London, carried a report it obtained from informed sources at the White House to the effect that President as-Sadat had ordered the organization of a military campaign against the Libyan regime following the arrest of a group of professional terrorists sent by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to assassinate the Egyptian president. When the Americans learned about the Egyptian military operation, President Carter contacted President as-Sadat and persuaded him to cancel the operation.

ALGERIAN-SOVIET COMMITTEE DISCUSSES MARITIME AFFAIRS

LD291059 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 5 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The joint Algerian-Soviet maritime committee held its fifth session yesterday at the National Bureau of Ports.

The Algerian delegation, which is headed by Brother Sabah, director general of the merchant fleet, included officials from the Ministries of Transport and Foreign Affairs, the Algerian National Maritime Establishment, the National Bureau for Ports, the National Establishment for Loading and Unloading and the Higher Maritime Institution.

The Soviet delegation, which is headed by (Zabarachenko), member of the collegium of the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, included officials from the Soviet Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, the Foreign Ministry, the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, the Soviet Maritime Establishment and the Ports Authority. The subject under discussion at this session is the problems facing the operation of the regular line linking Algerian ports with Soviet ports in accordance with the Algerian-Soviet maritime agreement concluded in Algiers on 18 April 1973.

The two delegations are also discussing measures to develop maritime traffic between the two countries and to insure the best conditions for the effectiveness, speed and cost of Algerian-Soviet exchanges.

LIBYA

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ISSUES STATEMENT ON TUNISIAN CHARGES

LD011000 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The Foreign Secretariat has issued a statement about the official statements made by Tunisian Government officials with regard to the events taking place in Tunisia. Here is the text of the statement of the Foreign Secretariat:

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was surprised by the official statements made by the Tunisian Government officials, particularly the statement by the prime minister, Hedi Nouira, on Wednesday 30 January 1980, which contained a flagrant attack on the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership seeking to involve it in the events now taking place in Tunisia.

The Foreign Secretariat, while condemning these attacks and the tendentious information campaigns, emphasizes the following:

1. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has no direct or indirect connection with the events which are taking place in the town of Qafsah, and the attempts by the Tunisian Government to blame the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for these events are aimed at preoccupying the Tunisian public with its internal problems and distracting it from learning the real motives which have led in the past, and still lead, to events and popular uprisings.

The Tunisian regime has been accustomed, in an attempt to avoid the truth, to blame the Libyan people for any popular uprising or popular discontent, when the Libyan people are innocent and have nothing to do with such uprisings. If they are not innocent, their only guilt is the eruption of a historic popular revolution, and if by Libyan interference the Tunisian officials mean the transfer of the ideas of the revolution to the Tunisian masses, then the Libyan people are not responsible for this. Moreover, neither the Libyan people nor the Tunisian authorities can prevent human ideas from being transferred because ideas cannot be suppressed or imprisoned. The Great 1 September revolution gives out its own ideological radiations which influence the people's movement. The closure of the Libyan Cultural Center in Tunis is the best example of this.

2. The Tunisian prime minister has announced a number of measures by the Tunisian Government harming the fraternal relations existing between the two fraternal peoples. While regretting such actions, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Foreign Secretariat lays the responsibility with the Tunisian Government alone for the creation of division and discord between the two fraternal peoples and for destroying their interests. We cannot but warn the two fraternal peoples to be vigilant and not to give any opportunity to their enemies.

3. The Tunisian prime minister was not content to implicate the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the Qafsah events, but he pointed to the possibility of involving it in what could happen in Tunisia in the future with regard to popular uprisings when he forecast in his statement that there is a premeditated intention of leveling charges at the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah whenever the Tunisian regime is subjected to a popular uprising. This in itself exposes the falseness of the claims made by the Tunisian prime minister and the plan he is drawing up to harm the relations between the two fraternal peoples and undermine the fraternal relations between them.

4. The formal charges made by the Tunisian regime pointed to the seizure of Libyan passports in the possession of certain elements. The Foreign Secretariat wishes on this occasion to explain that the Tunisian Consulate in Tripoli is in the habit of using the methods of hiding and smuggling the passports of Libyan Arab nationals who apply for entry visas to Tunisia for the purpose of spreading such charges.

The best proof of this is the fact that on 20 October 1979 a Libyan passport, No 470585, issued in Tripoli on 24 July 1979 was seized at the border post with Tunisia from As-Sadiq al-Khayyari, member of the Tunisian Commissioner's Office in Tripoli, while he was driving a car with diplomatic plate No 13/50. Moreover on 28 October 1979, two Libyan passports, the first, No 371831 issued on 31 July 1977, and the second, No 163494 issued on 13 February 1974, were seized from a member of the Tunisian Commissioner's Office, Muhammad as-Sadiq, who was driving a car with diplomatic plate No 13/57. The two Tunisian officials were on their way to Tunisia when the above-mentioned passports were seized from them, a fact which exposes the premeditated designs and the premeditated plan.

We challenge the Tunisian regime to submit any evidence to justify the charges and fabrications whether with regard to any Libyan collaboration in the popular uprising in Qafsah or any other material evidence proving that the Libyan people were involved in the uprising.

5. The reference to "the friends" from whom the Tunisian prime minister said he is seeking assistance confirms that the Tunisian Government has the intention of resorting to the foreign imperialist forces with the aim of threatening the interests of the two fraternal peoples and of exposing the peace and security of the region to danger and foreign intervention. This is rejected by the two fraternal peoples who are linked with a common struggle against the imperialist enemy, not forgetting their fraternal and neighborly relations and common destiny. Moreover the seeking of the assistance of the French air and naval forces constitutes an affront to the fraternal Tunisian people.

6. While reiterating its profound regret at the fabrications and allegations of the Tunisian officials, the Foreign Secretariat affirms its concern for the fraternal relations and the deep ties and the nobility of the joint national aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and points out that there is still an opportunity for the Tunisian regime to reconsider its stand and not to be drawn into a scheme that serves no one but the enemies of the two peoples, and to refrain from dragging a foreign force into the region.

JANA: 'ARMED TUNISIAN RESISTANCE' CLAIMS QAFSAH ATTACK

LD311502 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Paris, January 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--'France-Inter' radio reported today that two 'transall' French military transport planes were sent to Tunisia at the request of the Tunisian Government.

An organization calling itself the 'armed Tunisian resistance' has issued the first military statement which claimed responsibility for the Qafsah attack last Sunday.

TRIPOLI CITES FRENCH PRESS ON QAFSAH EVENTS

LD311753 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Paris, January 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The French daily L'IMPRESSION reports, quoting a correspondent who was able to reach the Tunisian city of Qafsah, that shooting is still heard in the city where curfew is still enforced.

According to L'IMPRESSION, many sources confirmed that the people of Qafsah encouraged the insurgents. On the same subject LE MATIN today described the situation in Qafsah as still very tense with the Tunisian authorities cordoning off the city and stopping the traffic of citizens in and out.

The daily's reporter quoted an officer in the Tunisian Army whose name was not disclosed as saying that the army was now facing a difficult task due to the cooperation of Qafsah citizens with the insurgents.

Helicopters are circling over the city's suburbs while armoured vehicles are centered in the city and additional reinforcement was brought in, LE MATIN also reported.

LE MATIN Cited

LD311759 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Paris, January 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The French LE MATIN daily said that the Tunisian opposition in Paris denied the Tunisian official allegations that a foreign hand is involved in the Qafsah events.

Most of the insurgents, the sources said, were from the city of Qafsah, otherwise they would not have escaped the intense government forces which were deployed in the area due to Bourguiba's visit to southern Tunisia.

Commenting on the security men's losses, LE MATIN said they equaled twenty times those of the insurgents.

TUNISIAN RESISTANCE IN CONTROL OF SAFAQIS

LD311745 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, January 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Reports from Tunis said that clashes started in the city of Safaqis yesterday between the Tunisian armed resistance and the government forces. The Tunisian resistance is now in control of the situation in Safaqis, the reports added.

TUNISIAN OPPOSITION SAY CLASHES SPREAD TO QABIS

LD311746 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Paris, January 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Tunisian opposition circles in Paris discussed setting up an information committee to highlight the popular struggle for the complete independence of Tunisia.

The committee will include the various Tunisian opposition groups abroad following the Qafsah events and speculations about a French intervention. Opposition sources say the clashes spread towards Qabis which also is in a state of tension.

MAURITANIA

HAYDALA STRESSES NEUTRALITY IN W. SAHARA

AB300943 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 30 Jan 80 AB

[Excerpts] Our country, like all other countries of the world, is today celebrating the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. On this occasion, the president of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN], head of state and head of government, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, made an important speech to the nation in Arabic, and this is the translation:

[Read by announcer] The Military Committee for National Salvation and the government have been able to achieve peace, for which we must be thankful to God. We have put an end to an unjustified spilling of blood. We have removed from our country the forces of a country involved in the conflict, and we have also solidified our sovereignty, confirmed our dignity, and thus proved our complete neutrality in the Western Sahara conflict. Finally, we have driven out all causes of tension from our country.

Furthermore, we have engaged in the streamlining of our administration and the rationalization of state expenditure; in short, the recovery of our financial situation.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the unprecedented patriotism you have shown during the last changes [in the CMSN] and to express my appreciation for your sense of patriotism and the degree of your confidence. The support I expect from all of you should consist of every one scrupulously carrying out the work assigned to him wherever he may be. May God guide our steps onto the road for the salvation of our country.

MOROCCO

SOLIDARITY WITH TUNISIA EXPRESSED; QAFSAH ATTACK CONDEMNED

LD311334 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Following the aggression to which the Tunisian town of Qafsah was subjected recently, Morocco expressed its solidarity with sister Tunisia and its condemnation of the criminal attempt aimed at harming Tunisia's security and encroaching on its territorial integrity. The Moroccan ambassador in Tunis, Mohamed Tazi, conveyed the sentiments of solidarity to Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira this morning. The meeting lasted about 90 minutes and it dealt with the situation in the Arab Maghreb and recent developments, particularly following the attack on the town of Qafsah last Sunday.

Hedi Nouira hailed Morocco's stand, and stressed that Tunisia--president, government and people--is proud of this sincere fraternal solidarity.

BOUCETTA RETURNS FROM ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, VIEWS RESULTS

LD312140 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Excerpts] M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Rabat this evening after representing Morocco at the emergency session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference held recently in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

The minister of state made a statement in which he referred to the importance of the conference and the role played by Morocco at the meeting. He said: [begin recording]

[Boucetta] The conference was important mainly because it was convened in certain circumstances. It was attended by the vast majority of the member states of the Islamic Conference. The conference was attended by 36 out of 40 eligible states. The viewpoint on the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan was so important that the Islamic world as a whole sensed the gravity of this intervention and what has resulted and will result from it as far as all the Islamic countries are concerned.

The resolutions on this intervention were very important.

The important thing is that Islamic solidarity emerged in its proper image at the conference. Morocco played the role it has played since preparing the conference and during the adoption of the resolutions. There was also another (?issue) which concerns the Islamic world. For the first time--and this is important--mention was made of the intervention of foreign armies and particularly the Soviet army in the African Continent and particularly in the Horn of Africa and Somalia. A resolution was adopted concerning this question.

I consider that the conference was important for unifying the Muslims over Afghanistan and the polarization of ideas with which we are always faced in defending the Islamic world and the Islamic faith everywhere.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, do you think that the results of the conference are enough in view of the situation in the area?

[Boucetta] There is no doubt that the resolutions which have been adopted at the current stage are important. I would not say they are sufficient because Soviet intervention in Afghanistan cannot be stopped by mere resolutions but they are necessary and they are the beginning of actions to protect the Islamic world from interventions such as these. [end recording]

COMMUNIST LEADER CONDEMNS CUBAN RECOGNITION OF SAHARAN REPUBLIC

LD291308 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Rabat--'Ali Yata, the secretary general of the Party of Progress and Socialism, the communist party, has sent a message to Fidel Castro, the Cuban president. In it he condemns the decision of the Cuban Government to recognize the so-called Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR].

The message says in particular that the imaginary SDAR has not existed in the near or distant past. It only exists in the minds and plans of those who declared its establishment in Algiers 4 years ago.

The message notes that the Cuban Government's step does not help finding a solution to the tension in the northwest African region, or improving the prospects for understanding and cooperation among the peoples of the Arab Maghreb.

'Ali Yata affirms in his message that the strugglers in Morocco will continue to adhere to their legitimate rights, regardless of the circumstances or plots against their country.

He adds: Yet, we do not want the friendship which brings together the Moroccan working class and people with the Cuban people to be obstructed.

In conclusion, 'Ali Yata asks Fidel Castro to carefully examine the longtime relations between the two parties as well as the views he has expressed in his message, expressing the hope that such an examination may help him reconsider the situation adopted by the Cuban Government in that regard.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI TAKES OATH AS SSU SPEAKER

JN011053 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 1 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 1 February--A few moments ago, President Numayri took the constitutional oath as the speaker of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] before the third SSU congress.

Yaha 'Abd al-Majid, secretary of the department for presidential and organization affairs, had announced before a congress session the unanimous election of President Numayri by all SSU provincial congresses.

The congress will elect the SSU Central Committee members later today. Tomorrow, it will elect the SSU Political Bureau members.

LIBYAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HOME 30 JAN

JN311131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 31 January--The Libyan delegation led by Muhammad az-Zuwayy, assistant secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, left Khartoum for home last night after attending the meetings of the third Sudanese Socialist Union Congress which began last Saturday.

TUNISIA

FURTHER REPORT ON NOUIRA SPEECH ON RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

LD311552 Tunis TAP in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Jan 31 (TAP)--"The Tunisian Government headed by President Habib Bourguiba decided to recall our representative in Tripoli, because keeping relations between both countries at such a high level has become impossible now."

That's what Mr Hedi Nouira, prime minister and PSD secretary general, announced Wednesday before the party officials of the Tunis Governorate meeting at the party's house in the presence of the government and Political Bureau members.

The prime minister recalled at the beginning of his speech the information reported by Interior Minister Othman Kechird during the press conference he held Wednesday morning about the criminal attack against the city of Qafsah, its preparation and objective.

"If Tunisia has been today the target of this unmanly attack, said Mr Nouira in this connection, it is mainly due to its liberal policy of national independence at home and its foreign policy based on moderation and noninterference in other people's affairs and international law.

"The Tunisian premier went on saying:

"It is against this policy that the aggression is aimed. Tunisia has been the target of some mercenaries who sold their soul and conscience to answer foreign schemes and cupidity. These mercenaries have been trained in Libyan camps, something we have protested against. They have also gone into training Uganda and Lebanon and got to know the techniques of attempt [as received]. We have already seen some examples of attempts. They have also been trained in air piracy and Tunisia has met with this sort of operations including that of Orly Airport, of the Frankfurt-Jerba flight and of the Italian Rome-Tunis flight.

"Those who organized all these terrorist operations reached Libya where they found refuge and protection. This is briefly what they feel for Tunisia. We can already deduce from the preliminary enquiry that this gang advanced by infiltration through an Algerian zone and arrived in Qafsah early Sunday Jan. 27. The attack took place two days before the most sacred Moslem day: Mouled Day thus, the instigators showed clearly that they set little value on the moral values of Islam.

"The originators of this attack," added Mr Hedi Nouira, "expected to find support and sympathy among inhabitants of Qafsah but their hope changed into bitter disillusion. In fact assailants shouted slogans like: 'We are popular committees and we came to set you free from a dictatorial regime and these are weapons in your hands.' The stand of Qafsah's inhabitants was respectable: The civilian victims killed for refusing to participate in the attack testify to it.

"The motto of this gang as their leader said, was 'sacred sacrifice is to kill to make revolution triumph.' Besides, the brain of the attack revealed on several occasion his real designs. He said in September 1978 after the repeated failure of a series of similar attempts: 'On account of the rejection by the infinitesimal minority of unity, we are now obliged to resort to the new processes of the popular revolution to achieve it. The action will find expression in the future in the creation all over the Arab world of revolutionary popular committees working openly or secretly depending on circumstances with a view to assuming power and achieving unity.' No doubt about the real designs of this gang's head can exist after such statements.

"What all Tunisians must bear in mind, whatever their trends or views may be, is that defending the country and safeguarding its legal institutions and its integrity and the security of the nation is the duty of everyone. Tunisians are therefore bound to banish any form of moral or material violence so as to secure stability, otherwise there can be no liberty. They must also suppress their marginal disputes."

The prime minister urged Tunisians to assume their duty of responsible citizens and found it reasonable that Tunisians should condemn strongly and unreservedly such dealings and close ranks behind legal authorities for such a reproof makes a distinction between those who privilege private interests and personal ambitions and those who really place the nation's interest and objectives above all the other reasons.

"Tunisians," he added, "have grounds for grieving over the presence among them of black sheep who sold their conscience and disowned their country but let every Tunisian know that he is always right when he defends his country's independence."

Then the Tunisian premier announced that the Tunisian Government decided to recall its representative in Libya and immediately informed the Libyan representative in Tunis of that since keeping relations between both countries at such a high level has become impossible now it also decided to close the Tunisian and Libyan cultural centers in both countries. Mr Hedi Nouira went on saying:

"It is regrettable that such facts were directed from a country whose people we have learnt to co-exist with and with whom we have co-operated at good and bad times, a country we have adopted and whose nationals we have welcomed.

"You see, Tunisia makes the necessary distinction between the fundamentally righteous Libyan people and the regime under the yoke of which they are bent."

The prime minister stated that Tunisia is determined to defend its sovereignty whatever the cost, having produced each time proof to the courage of its soldiers, of its government forces and of its people's honesty including the Qafsah citizens who have, once more, set a brilliant example thanks to their fierce resistance and sacrifices.

He added: "We could have defeated this handful of mercenaries at first and in a short lapse of time. But the lie of the land prevented us from using all he forces we disposed of, especially as we are particularly concerned about preserving the life of peaceful citizens."

Mr Hedi Nouira also said: "The Qafsah events came to disappoint the dreams of their instigators who, disposing of all sorts of money and weapons of various origins thought that Tunisia is only an easy prey to the dealings of a handful of mercenaries." They believed that causing some agitation would be enough to make their diabolical scheme succeed but their deception is bitter for their venture failed.

Besides Mr Nouira pointed out that Tunisia could be the target of other attacks because, he said, obstinate and arrogant people regard their check as a disgrace and are always capable of renewing the attempt.

Then Mr Nouira added that Tunisia has experience in struggle and urged young people to be constantly on the alert and to go beyond all differences by sticking more to legal authority and constitutional institutions.

The Tunisian premier called on participants to support authorities for such operations may take citizens by surprise but they always fail when they do not find a propitious ground. He pointed out that patriotic enthusiasm and the expressed will to keep ready should be followed by a firm, efficient and moderate action.

Tunisia, he said, is regarded by a number of states as a peaceful country which preferred to devote most of its efforts and means to development and to the rise of its people's moral and material standard rather than spending them to form armed forces and pile up arms and military equipment. Tunisia has refused to do so and its objectives and priorities lie in the creation of jobs for its citizens and the promotion of their standard of living for its policy of global development.

But the evolution of the situation and the international conjuncture order us to examine again our political priorities.

"We will need, to achieve our political priorities, some competent and loyal men with sufficient influence. Tunisia is not isolated from the rest of the world. It has friends everywhere who gave expression of their friendship on several occasions," said Mr Nouira.

Tunisia bears a good character abroad, which won it the regard and aid of everyone. In conclusion, the prime minister said Tunisians should be convinced that, whatever their sacrifices may be, will get out of this crisis victorious and the heads high. The country's sovereignty, the nation's integrity and the citizens' quietude will be any the stronger.

FURTHER DETAILS ON ATTACK AT QAFSAH RELEASED

LD311940 Tunis TAP in English 1450 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 31 (TAP)--15 persons were dead among civilians and 22 dead in the national army and the security forces (15 enrolled, 5 soldiers and 2 policemen). 90 soldiers, 2 guards and 16 civilians were injured, while 42 assailants were arrested, 4 others were dead and 3 injured. According to the report on the Qafsah events released by the Tunisian Interior Minister Othman Kechrid in a news conference Wednesday in Tunis.

The clash launched Sunday, Jan 27 at dawn over the Tunisian south-west town, was described by the minister as follows:

The inhabitants here awoke Sunday at dawn by the noise of gunfire and beats emerging from assailants who broke-up into 3 groups. The first rushed to the "Ahmed Tlili" army barracks, 4 km away from the town, the second one to a smaller barracks located inside the town and the third one made their way towards the police and the national guard stations.

In their assaults, the attackers used weapons such as bazookas and bombs.

"Their main target was invading the buildings symbol of power and being prejudicial to state sovereignty. [sentence as received]

"The mercenaries forced everybody they crossed including civilians, policemen or military to join them and killing persons refusing their offer, except for some citizens who accepted under threat to follow them.

"At the clash," the Tunisian interior minister added, "an Algerian motor-coach travelling from Algeria to the south of Tunisia twice a week disembarked about 200 [word indistinct] in Qafsah with 44 passengers aboard.

"The assailants have taken over this vehicle to obstruct the wa then the occupants run away and took refuge in a hotel and neighbouring houses. They even came into them to shoot fire. In addition, they took over two 404 type trucks, a Renault 5 blue car and another vehicle they used to drive around the town and reach the building of their targets.

"According to Mr Kechrid there were only 350 new recruited in Ahmed Tlili's barracks who were vaccinated and accompanied by the army's gang while the other soldiers were around the south for military manoeuvres.

"Having collected reports and pinched the barracks guides, the invaders forced them to comply with the order. They were obliged to go the centre of the town with their pyjamas on.

"The attackers entrenched themselves into the town's secondary school putting the new enrolled soldiers forward so that they were used as shields, which made the army's and the security forces task too hard for it was important to preserve the life of innocent people. So, the authorities decided to blow one of the walls back of the college, thus facilitating its invasion by the army at 1700 pm. Most of the assailants had been then arrested.

"The investigation led Monday revealed that there were 30 attackers who all of them have juridical antecedents.

"Some of them are prosecuted by security services for previous crimes, and left the national territory. Some of them have been staying abroad since 1970 they run away to a neighbouring country for this kind of actions they were trained in camps and some of them were sent to battle fronts comprising Lebanon and Uganda.

"The members of the gang so prepared," the minister went on, "they have been laying down the plan for this operation since early January in order to combat according to them, the Tunisian people's oppression and reform the social structures carried out in the country.

"They started to illicitly bring arms through frontier zones called 'Bir om nps' and 'Skhirat' [names as received] to take them into a deposit.

"The confiscated arms are of various origins identified by an invoice with the names of the seller and the purchaser."

The minister pointed out that accomplices helped the gang penetrate in Tunisia including two Tunisians, one called sheriff, a one-eyed man who took part in the 1962 plot. The latter was asked to wait for the members of the gang on board two lorries and help them cross with their arms the running-track to Qafsah.

These two accomplices provided ak [and] informed the attackers of Qafsah and gave them plans and the targets they laid down.

The home minister specified that 20 persons trained for the circumstances were waiting in Qafsah for the gang of mercenaries to help them achieve the operation and that the latter thought they would join to them a greatest number of accessories (300 to 400 persons). However, at the eve of the operation, being reduced, they had predicted to withdraw but they finally decided to undertake their heinous crime.

"Without pronouncing premature judgement, the inquiry being led," the home minister added, "the result of the operation is obvious. The arms were taken and the number of victims showed it clearly."

The heaviest casualties which resulted from this savage operation were registered within the national army, the assailants took as hostages the new recruits who are pupils, isolated them inside the town's secondary school until 5 pm, the minister stated specifying that the young people's howls were heard outside because the aggressors were inflicting on them tortures.

The home minister stated that the order forces had first hesitated to use force to save the young recruits from the ravishers' claws, but about 5 pm they decided to blast the surrounding wall of the secondary school and managed to make 150 hostages flee. Furthermore, the minister gave an account of the arms discovered in a depot inside the town of Qafsah following the operation of raking launched by the order forces. The lot comprises 40 submachineguns, 73 brenguns, 339 guns, 53 automatic pistols, 9 bazookas, 3 mortars of 60 mm, 10 wireless sets and a huge quantity of all sorts of munitions.

According to the first results of the inquiry, it seems that the authors of the operation were following a two stage plan.

--First stage: To attack the military centres and the security stations and become masters of them with 300 to 400 accessories' assistance on whom they were relying.

--Second stage: To surround the town of Qafsah and appeal to a foreign country's reinforcement ready to supply them with arms, munitions and even money.

"We have proofs showing that the authors of the operation even thought to justify the assistance they were waiting for from abroad since they intended to found a government. Thus foreign interference would appear as an assistance to a government on its own request," the Tunisian home minister said.

"We are deeply afflicted by the stabbing in the back of such a peaceful country as ours" he concluded, reminding the sacrifices made by Tunisia, in the past to help the brother countries.

In the room where the press conference took place, several specimens of arms were shown to the journalists namely telecommunication equipment, bazookas, rocket-launchers, pistols, grenades, assault rifles of the type Kalashnikov and explosives, other documents such as the arrested assailants' photographs, plans of the town of Qafsah, of the barracks and the strategic places of the town, travelling documents, membership cards in the Arab Socialist Union and a photocopy of an invoice concluded between a foreign country and the involved one to buy arms were presented to the journalists.

TUNISIAN CABINET DISCUSSES QAFSAH ATTACK

LD311954 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Today the Council of Ministers held its regular meeting under Prime Minister Hedi Nouira. Minister of Information and Cultural Affairs Fouad Mbazaa made the following statement after the meeting: [begin recording]

The Council of Ministers devoted its meeting today to a review of the preliminary results of the aggression committed against part of Tunisian territory. The council has noted the return of life to normal in Qafsah and has expressed its appreciation to the national army, the police and national guard who acted effectively in quashing the rebels and restoring security.

The Council of Ministers while paying its respect to the innocent victims, expressed to their families its full soldiarity. In these circumstances the government calls on all Tunisians to be on constant alert to insure the integrity of the homeland and the independence of the country. Tomorrow, Friday 1 February, is to be observed as a day of national solidarity.

The council has taken note of the support and solidarity expressed by friendly and sister countries toward Tunisia. The council also studied the security and defense measures made necessary by the situation. [end recording]

FITOURI CITES ISLAMIC MINISTERS' DISAPPROVAL OF QAFSAH

LD312011 Tunis TAP in English 1729 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 31 (TAP)--"The Islamic countries' foreign ministers who attended the Islamabad conference expressed their disapproval upon Qafsah last events and deplored the heinous crime perpetrated by a group of mercenaries and traitors against their countries and the Tunisian citizens," Mr Mohamed Fitouri, Tunisian foreign minister reported Wednesday on his return from Islamabad.

The minister stressed that Tunisia's good name abroad since many years, thanks to President Bourguiba's leading character, was not affected as re-asserted by the conference participants.

"The heads of all delegations expressed their governments' support to Tunisia," he said in conclusion.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO STATEMENT CONDEMNS U.S. SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO

LD311606 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The POLISARIO Front condemned once again in a statement issued in Brussels the U.S. administration's decision to double its military support of the Rabat regime and described it as flagrant interference in the affairs of the OAU which had called on the United Nations to abstain from any action that may hinder its efforts aimed at settling the Saharan problem in its capacity as a decolonization problem. The Saharan statement also described the American decision as an aggression against Africa and the Third World.

After recalling the latest United Nations General Assembly resolution, confirming the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence, and condemning the continued occupation of Saharan soil by the expansionist regime of Rabat, the statement called on this regime to embark on talks within the framework of the OAU with the aim of achieving peace. The statement confirmed, at the same time, that the Saharan people's struggle will continue in order to achieve the national independence of this people and peace in the Western Sahara.

U.S. AMBASSADOR SOL LINOWITZ MEETS WITH GAZA MAYOR

TA301803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Sol Linowitz, the U.S. special ambassador to the Middle East, has been conducting meetings today with the prime minister, the U.S. consul in Jerusalem. He also went to Gaza, where he met the mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, for a talk. Our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar, reports from Gaza about the issues put forward at that talk:

Gaza Mayor Hajj Rashad ash-Shawwa, who announced before his meeting with the U.S. ambassador that he was not going to negotiate with him, again emphasized at the end of the meeting that only the PLO is authorized to represent the Palestinian people in official talks and that his meeting with the U.S. ambassador was a private one. Ash-Shawwa said: I discussed the current situation with the ambassador, and the steps the Americans are taking with the aim of bringing the views of the Egyptian and Israeli representatives closer in the negotiations, views which are at opposite ends of the spectrum. According to Ash-Shawwa, there is no room in the current situation for the participation of any Palestinian side in any form of negotiations because the gap between the positions is so great. The best thing that could be done, in Ash-Shawwa's opinion, would be to continue with the efforts aimed at bringing the views of Egypt and Israel closer in the hope that in the end the Palestinians will also be attracted to the talks.

I asked Ash-Shawwa if he had, in his meeting with Linowitz, heard any new ideas connected with the autonomy negotiations. He replied that he did not think there were any new ideas on the issue. Before that, the U.S. ambassador told the dozens of journalists there that he had had a good, helpful talk with the mayor of Gaza and that he found that both of them, Ash-Shawwa and himself, were searching for a solution to the difficult problem of the differing views.

One of Hajj ash-Shawwa's most bitter rivals in Gaza, Dr Haydar 'Abd ash-Shafi, levelled severe criticism this morning at the meeting between Ash-Shawwa and Linowitz and commented that, in his view, this meeting would not serve the Palestinian issue.

Gaza Notable Criticizes Mayor

TA301220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The head of the Gaza branch of the Red Crescent organization, Haydar 'Abd ash-Shafi, has criticized the mayor of Gaza for his intention to meet with Linowitz.

Dr ash-Shafi said that he would have advised Ash-Shawwa not to hold that meeting because it cannot serve the Palestinian cause. He also thinks that Ash-Shawwa did not receive permission from 'Arafat to hold that conversation when they met a few days ago. Ash-Shafi was talking to our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar.

Meeting With Al-Khatib Reported

TA310940 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 80 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] In spite of the fact that Anwar al-Khatib, the governor of Jerusalem during the period of Jordanian rule, has denied outright that he met with Linowitz yesterday, both East Jerusalem and U.S. sources, however, reported that a meeting was held at noon yesterday at Al-Khatib's home in the Shu'afat quarter [of Jerusalem].

According to these sources, Al-Khatib went to the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem at midday yesterday. But when he noticed journalists, he went into the YMCA building nearby. He called the consulate staff by phone and left for his home. After that, Sol Linowitz, Ambassador Lewis and others left the consulate and followed him. The meeting, according to these sources, was held in his home. No details, if it was held, are known about their meeting.

AUTONOMY TALKS POSTPONED UNTIL 1 FEBRUARY

TA311614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The meeting of the delegations to the autonomy talks, which was to have been held this afternoon, has been postponed until tomorrow morning. The leaders of the delegations have met in order to consolidate a method for continuing the discussions. Minister Burg and Tamir participated on behalf of Israel.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the U.S. ambassador, Sol Linowitz, proposes dealing with three issues--the powers that Israel and Egypt are prepared to grant the residents of the territories in their autonomy models; the powers that Israel demands be left in its hands; and the powers to remain under the joint responsibility of Israel and the institutions of the self-administration. Our correspondent says that it appears that Linowitz' proposal will be accepted.

BURG, LINOWITZ, SHARON COMMENT ON TALKS

TA311619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks, Dr Yosef Burg, explained that the postponement of the meeting of the plenum of the autonomy committee until tomorrow was aimed at avoiding a meeting where public declarations would be made. In a conversation with our correspondent Razi Barqay, Burg said that this morning an American model of the autonomy was almost born as a compromise between the Israeli and Egyptian models. However, in the end the compromise model did not see the light of day.

Ambassador Linowitz said today, in one of his talks with the Israeli ministers, that Israel has to act to advance a solution to the Palestinian problem in the wake of Egypt's isolation in the Arab world because of the peace treaty with Israel.

Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports that in reaction to this Minister Sharon said that the time has come for the Americans to understand that one cannot always come to us with demands on the basis of the difficulties of others. The minister of agriculture also reacted to Linowitz' remarks, quoting the British foreign minister, to the effect that if Israel were to do more to solve the Palestinian problem its image would improve. According to Minister Sharon, we as Jews owe nothing to no one and Israel does not have to take too much notice of what people outside think of it.

Additional Comments by Burg, Khalil

TA010740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The ninth round of the autonomy talks will conclude at noon and those who have been following them closely evaluate the step taken as being too small. However, as for their progress, there has been an innovation. The negotiations, which were held this time in a new format of talks behind the scenes, will also continue in this format in the future.

Our correspondent, Razi Barqay, reports from the Accadia Hotel in Herzliyya that the three delegations will decided this morning to establish working groups and other bodies to accelerate the pace of the negotiations. Last night the heads of three delegations spoke at a dinner held in honor of the guests by the head of the Israeli team, Dr Yosef Burg.

[Barqay] Last night the dinner was held in a cordial atmosphere, after a day which began with a near crisis. The participants are keeping silent. They are only prepared to say that a new method of dealing with the problem is emerging, as they put it, by determining the common ground as well as the differences between the Egyptian and Israeli autonomy models through working groups.

[Begin Burg recording--in English] We need constant evaluation, reevaluation of matters, of ideas, of persons. And this can only be done if we work in mutual trust. [end recording]

[Barqay translates into Hebrew and continues] Trust--this was also the key word of the Egyptian prime minister in an emotional speech filled with both praise for Israel, for the way in which the negotiations have been conducted, and mainly and surprisingly, warm words for Menahem Begin.

[Begin Khalil recording--in English] Some people really misinterpreted the relations between me and Mr Begin and I have to clarify this. I never felt anything, really. When he came to Cairo I was ill and I am saying the truth. I would like to stress the fact that I really have the greatest appreciation for him. A great leader, [end recording]

[Barqay translates above into Hebrew and continues] Menahem Begin is a great leader and I believe, Khalil repeated to his listeners, that the gap between us can be bridged.

[Begin Khalil recording--in English] And then, we have to say that the Palestinians are the missing factor in our deliberations and, in my point of view, we have to make our proceedings attractive to them so that they can come and join us because they are the missing link in all our peace process. [end recording]

[Barqay translates above into Hebrew and continues] Last night Khalil and Burg exchanged many compliments. They did not forget to point out Linowitz' share in the talks. This round will end this morning, apparently, with optimistic statements. This is the first time that the really difficult matters have been discussed. The Americans will submit their own compromise proposals and, during the day, the two sides will decide which of these proposals to accept. Again, there has been very slow progress. There have been no fateful decisions but, nevertheless, under no circumstances has there been the impression that they have reached an impasse.

WEIZMAN CRITICIZED FOR GIVING PRIVATE RECEPTION

TA010637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Senior circles from Israel's delegation to the autonomy talks are leveling severe criticism at Minster Weizman because he secretly invited the delegations of Egypt and the United States to a reception at his home, and did not even bother to inform Minster Yosef Burg about this. Other members of the Israeli delegation were also not invited to the reception, while senior personalities from the security establishment were invited. This morning the defense minister expalined to our correspondent that he had invited the heads of delegations from the United States and Egypt to his home as his personal friends. He pointed out that he had been hosted many times at Mustafa Khalil's home and so it had been natural for him to return his hospitality.

REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN EVACUATION PROPOSAL EXPECTED

TA311204 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 80 p 2 TA

[Text] Israel will reject any official Egyptian appeal proposing that the remaining part of Sinai held by the IDF should be evacuated in stages and only the last part, that near the international border, should be evacuated in about 2 years time as written down in the peace agreements.

To date the Egyptians have not submitted any such official request, but various exploratory moves have recently been made concerning the possibility of the IDF carrying out its remaining withdrawals more rapidly and in stages. What is intended is that instead of one withdrawal in about 2 years time, to the international border, the territory should be split up into stages, as has been done up to now. The final withdrawal from the last section will be carried out in 2 years time.

The reason that the Egyptian exploratory moves are being rejected by security elements are as follows: The peace agreements deliberately state that the remaining territory should remain in IDF hands for 2 years in order to see how the peace agreement is implemented and to leave a buffer zone in the possession of the IDF in the event of the agreements being disrupted for any reason whatsoever. In addition to this, there is an important military reason linked with the airfields. The date for the completion of the withdrawal was set, among other things, in accordance with the establishment of alternative fields in Israel. Israel, moreover, is insisting, from the military viewpoint, that the air force should not be left without two important airfields. In addition to this, there is the financial reason. A more rapid withdrawal would put an additional financial burden on Israel, which is in any case being forced to bear the heavy burden of the new IDF deployment.

Because of these reasons, the chances of approving a proposal of the sort the Egyptians are considering are almost nil.

'GAZA FIRST' ONLY IF AUTONOMY NATURE AGREED UPON

TA311310 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jan 80 p 1, 15 TA

[By Shmu'el Segev]

[Excerpt] Israel is leaning toward giving favorable consideration to the possibility of implementing the autonomy in the Gaza Strip first, on the condition that, prior to this, an Egyptian agreement--and perhaps also that of the Palestinians in the territories--is obtained regarding the nature and authority of the autonomy council.

This position by Israel was marked yesterday after Ambassador Sol Linowtz' meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Minister of the Interior Dr Yosef Burg in Jerusalem.

Begin's tendency to agree to President Anwar as-Sadat's idea about implementing the autonomy in "Gaza first" still requires the approval of the government. Authoritative Israeli sources explained last night that the Israeli agreement is "conditional" and does not deviate from the current policy.

They emphasized that if agreement is obtained on the structure of the autonomy and its authority, Israel will in any case be prepared to implement it in all of the territories. Therefore, the implementation of the autonomy is "Gaza first" has more of a tactical nature than one of principle.

In the meantime, during the night there was a marked Israel-Egyptian willingness to give favorable consideration to several of Ambassador Linowitz' operative ideas, the purpose of which is to speed up the pace of the autonomy talks. These ideas were first examined by As-Sadat and Begin and last night they were also examined by Burg and Khalil. Among other things, Linowitz proposed establishing several working groups to deal with specific issues and thus to overcome the extreme gap between the Israeli "model" and the Egyptian counterplan.

At a 90-minute meeting held during the night in Dr Mustafa Khalil's room in the Acadia Hotel in Herzliyya, Dr Burg proposed establishing a permanent pilot group which would follow the debates of the working groups and the ministerial plena. Dr Khalil, for his part, proposed the establishment of a working group which would study the security problems in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It appears that Israel is rejecting this idea out of hand. It was agreed that the ideas for new working groups would be crystallized at another "private" meeting to be held today at 1100. If agreement is achieved on this matter, these ideas will be brought to the 1500 [1300 GMT] plenum meeting.

Before his second meeting with Linowitz and Khalil, Dr Burg this morning invited the members of the Israeli Ministerial Committee on Autonomy Affairs for prior consultations in his room.

Linowitz himself is going to meet separately this morning with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. U.S. sources explained that Linowitz wants to learn Dayan's views and understand the points on which he disagrees with the government's position on the autonomy issue.

Sources from the three delegations confirmed last night that Linowitz prefers this form of "private meetings" to discussions in broad frameworks.

Among other things, Mr Linowitz has proposed that after one working group ends its discussions, the authority it has been examining will be given to the Palestinian public, without waiting until the end of the debates by the other working groups.

It appears that Egypt is inclined toward accepting this proposal. Dr Khalil claimed that this gradual transfer of authority of rule to Palestinian bodies would permit a gradual augmentation of mutual trust between the sides.

However, Israel does not think that this proposal is practical, because in any case a Palestinian body which will accept this authority will have to be chosen and from this it follows that it will be necessary to wait until the "model" is completed before such elections are held.

EGYPT WANTS SPECIAL GROUPS FOR SECURITY ISSUES

TA311224 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Jan 80 p 1 TA

[Text] Egypt is demanding that, in the framework of the autonomy talks, a special working group should be set up to discuss security issues. This is a demand which has been rejected by Israel over the last few days.

The Egyptians say that Israel's opposition to the security clause in the autonomy model, submitted by the Egyptian working group in the talks which ended yesterday in the Tel Aviv Laromme Hotel, requires getting down to a clarification of this question. The Egyptian model determines, among other things, that any IDF movement into the autonomy territories or inside them will require authorization in advance by the autonomy council.

The chairman of the Israeli working group, Hayim Kubersky, rejected this demand, explaining that Israel does not intend to incorporate foreign elements into a discussion of its security problems. However, the Egyptians have not interpreted this reply as an expression of definite opposition to the idea of a working group for security issues. Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will put forward this issue again today during the ministerial plenum debates in Herzliyya.

Last night Egyptian sources promised that Khalil does not intend to bring about a crisis in the talks, in spite of the contradiction between the two models proposed in the talks by the working groups. The sources said that they also had no expectations of any significant progress at this stage.

DETAILS OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY STAFF IN TEL AVIV RELEASED

TA311235 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 80 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Arye Tzimuqi and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Yesterday the Egyptian Foreign Ministry reported the list of the diplomatic staff to serve in the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The following four diplomats will be working with the ambassador, Sa'd Murtada:

--The consul--Dr Muhammad (Al-Hazzandar), 48, a senior diplomat who served previously in New York, Bogota and Senegal;

--First secretary--(Ahmed Jum'ah), 38, served previously in Washington and Bahrain;

--Adviser--(Faqri Nahala), 43, served as senior adviser in the Economic Department of the Foreign Ministry in Cairo; and

--Political adviser--(Sayyid Sulayman), 42, served previously in Australia and San Salvador.

The Egyptian staff will also include two interepreters, administrative staff and communications staff. The Egyptian diplomats who have been chosen to serve in Tel Aviv have gone through a special 6-week course in the Foreign Ministry in Cairo. According to the 'AL HAMISHMAR correspondent, none of the Egyptian Embassy staff speaks Hebrew.

This coming Monday [4 February] an Egyptian team headed by a senior official with the rank of ambassador will come to Israel to purchase the Egyptian Embassy building in Tel Aviv and locate houses for diplomatic residences.

Tomorrow Israel's delegation will go to Egypt to discuss the preparations toward full normalization of relations. The Israeli team includes Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, Brig Gen Efrayim Poran and Elyaqum Rubinstein, the head of the Egyptian "desk" [last word in English] in the Foreign Ministry.

The technical team which went to Cairo the day before yesterday to prepare the Israeli Embassy building has reported that the owner of the building, who rented it, suddenly cancelled the lease. The owner did not explain why he backed out of the deal which had been signed last week.

Following this, Brigadier General Poran instructed the head of the technical team to sign the lease for another building in the (Zamelq) quarter. Yesterday the team entered the new building and began to prepare it. The new building is a luxury office building.

LIBERALS DELAY FOREIGN MINISTER APPOINTMENT

TA311122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 31 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The Liberals managed to postpone the appointment of Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir to the post of foreign minister. At the conclusion of a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Begin promised the liberals that the appointment will not be effected as long as a way is not found to improve the status of the Liberals in the Cabinet.

The delegation requested that the prime minister give liberal party representatives more sernior government posts and the prime minister esponded to the demand.

INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SHARON DEMANDED

TA311247 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The Labor Party demands an investigation into the affair of land sales in Judaea and Samaria via Gush Emunim. A statement of the party's reaction team says that if it becomes clear that Minister Sharon put state funds at the disposal of private individuals from Gush Emunim, the prime minister will have to request the minister's immediate resignation.

On the same issue, Knesset Oversight Committee Chairman Shemu'el Toledano of Shay approached the state comptroller and asked to investigate the transfer of state funds to Gush Emunim by Minister Ari'el Sharon. Knesset member Tolendano based this request on press reports on this issue. He wanted to examine whether or not this constituted a violation of the state budget law, malpractice or deviation from accepted rules regarding the use of public funds.

BEGIN, WEIZMAN DISAGREE OVER DEFENSE BUDGET

TA301941 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today, during a talk with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, that if there is no additional cut in the defense budget this could cause a crisis in the government. Mr Weizman replied: If there is a crisis, it will not be my fault.

Our military correspondent, 'Amiram Nir, reports that today Mr Weizman rejected out of hand the minicabinet's request to make an additional cut in the defense budget. The defense minister was invited to the prime minister's office today concerning this matter and there was a tete-a-tete conversation between the two of them which lasted about an hour. As stated, Mr Begin did not succeed in persuading the defense minister to agree to a further out in the budget. Our military correspondent says that the defense establishment regards the budget agreed upon with the minister of finance as a line from which ther can be no retreat under any circumstances. Security circles say that every additional billion Israeli pounds cut from the defense budget means about 1,000 unemployed workers in the defense industries.

CURFEW IMPOSED ON HEBRON FOLLOWING STUDENT'S DEATH

TA010951 Tel Aviv ITIM 0600 GMT 1 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpts] Hebron, 1 February--The curfew imposed on Hebron center following the murder of a Yeshiva student will continue today and will also be extended to include the Makhpelah cave. The inhabitants of Qiryat Arba' will be able to hold prayers in the cave on Friday evening and Saturday accompanied by IDF guards.

Because of the curfew, no prayers will be held Friday at noon in the mosque in the cave. Hundreds of Muslims from Hebron and its surroundings had intended to hold ceremonial prayers in the mosque today as part of the week of celebrations marking the Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Forces from the IDF and the border guards are patrolling the streets of Hebron and Qiryat Arba'. Large forces have also been stationed at road blocks on the highways leading out of Hebron and also in the streets of the town and in the Qiryat Arba' area.

The commander of the central command and the commander of Judaea and Samaria, as well as senior military government officers, worked during the night to quell the stormy mood in Qiryat Arba'. Inhabitants of the Qirya told the ITIM correspondent that this degeneration in Hebron was unavoidable and had continued for many months, following incidents against Jews in the Hebron area. They also pointed out that recently the authorities have not reacted [to these incidents]. According to them, until a few months ago Hebron inhabitants had been deterred from attacking people from Qiryat Arba', but when they felt that the scales had been tipped in their favor, they began to attack Jews. "There is no doubt that the scales must be returned to their previous balance and we will do this."

A security source told the ITIM correspondent that the IDF is responsible for law and order on both the Arab and Jewish sides. It is doing its job, and anyone caught committing a crime will be prosecuted. He commented that because relations in Hebron are delicate and filled with political tension, it is only right that any intelligent person should take note of the fact that the problems will not be solved by breaking the law. He added that the security forces were conducting a vigorous investigation, and he was convinced that the murderers would not escape the law.

COMMENTATOR NOTES CHANGE IN W. BANK ATTITUDES

TA301410 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 80 p 9 TA

[Yehuda Litani commentary: "The Writing on the Wall"]

[Text] "Suddenly, a man wakes up in the morning and feels that he belongs to a nation"--this is what an onlooker feels about what has recently been happening in the territories. Israel continues to treat the inhabitants of the territories as if the situations prevailing there in 1967 and 1971 continues to prevail in this day and time too. The Israelis will say "military government" and precede it paternalistically with the word "enlightened." The Palestinians in the territories are congregating under the PLO umbrella, and they proclaim loudly that they strongly object to the autonomy and to the Camp David accords, but they are exploiting the period of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations to tighten ranks and crystallize a leadership. A group of people that calls itself the "National Guidance Committee" is administering, controling and leading the public.

It has been contended, for years on end, that "there is nobody to talk with," as the Palestinian inhabitants lacked a leadership, or that the existing leadership couldn't be felt. Today, there are definitely people to talk with, the question is whether there is anything to talk about. The "National Guidance Committee" has at this stage no Jordan sympathizers among its members. only persons clearly affiliated with the PLO. There is, however, a tendency to coopt in the near future several supporters of Jordan to the committee and thus demonstrate further unity.

The Basam ash-Shak'ah affair constituted a turning point for the Palestinians in the territories. Even the last of the skeptics in the West Bank was persuaded that the Government of Israel has no clear policy in regard to the territories. Even though they strongly attack Egypt and call President as-Sadat all kinds of derogatory names, PLO leaders in the territories and members of the National Guidance Committee know well enough that Egypt and the United States protect their rights and that Israel is wary of acting strongly against the inhabitants.

"Israel will not dare to take any outstanding action until May," a prominent personality in the West Bank told me, "until then we are protected."

Since the release of Basam ash-Shak'ah from Ramallah prison and his reinstatement in Nabulus, inhabitants of the territories--and particularly of the West Bank--obey instructions of the National Guidance Committee. In the past, the strikes in East Jerusalem were seldom complete and they used to cease, as a rule, after an hour or two. The shopkeepers were wary of the open eyes of the Israeli police and, particularly, of Israel's security services.

In recent East Jerusalem business strikes, a unity has been demonstrated that was unheard of since 1967. All shops in the eastern city were shut and shuttered throughout the day, and no traffic could be seen in the city. Laborers informed their Jewish employers this side of the Green Line that "due to the strike" they wouldn't be coming in the morning. The same was true in Ramallah, Hebron, Al-Birah and in Nabulus.

And what is the Israeli answer to the national awakening in the territories and to the rallying of the inhabitants around one representative leadership? A return to past concepts. Attempts at divide and rule. A ban on West Bank leaders going to rallies in Gaza and vice versa. A reliance on quasi-moderate would-be leaders, heads of clans and conservative mukhtars, who are urged to march against the nationalistic trend.

It shouldn't be concluded from this that the only option open to Israel is the PLO. The PLO is one of the options, but the Jordanian one is still valid and the recently increased Jordanian involvement in the West Bank bears witness to this. The Jordanian attempt to open passport issuing offices in West Bank towns initially met a cool, and later a hostile reaction from PLO sympathizers. This is, however, nevertheless an innovation and a breakthrough in the front of the territories, which for years now has been adopting a PLO umbrella.

Autonomy is another option, only not in the form proposed by Israel or Egypt, but an autonomy that would grant more authority to the inhabitants and lead genuinely toward self-administration in the territories. Such an autonomy would find supporters among local leaders, as was also the case in the past.

The present Israeli policy, however, is rallying and consolidating the inhabitants of the territories and is diminishing every possibility of differences of opinion among them. The Likud government's autonomy proposals appear, to even the more moderate leaders in the territories, as a bad joke. The military government which, in the past, appeared to be a transient situation, has become a permanent solution. The IDF knows that the personal standard of the military government officers has considerably decreased since the sixties and even the seventies. At that time Moshe Dayan himself made sure that the standard of officers treating the inhabitants was high.

'Ezer Weizman--who has 1,000 issues on his hands, beginning with the negotiations with Egypt to the evacuation of Sinai, the construction of new airfields and the refurbishing of the IDF--has almost no time for the subject, which used to be the apple of Moshe Dayan's eye. Officers come and go in the various districts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the mayors often exchange meaningful glances between them on those newcomers. Since 1967 the Government of Israel has been accustomed to rely on the military government in issues pertaining to the day-to-day life of the inhabitants and on the security services where internal security was concerned. However, since Moshe Dayan coined the initial formula for holding the territories, a considerable change has occurred.

The problem is first and foremost a political one and, hence, neither the military administration nor the security services have the appropriate answers. Moshe Dayan has long been advocating the removal of the military government from the larger towns but, like all the solutions of the former defense and foreign minister, that solution is a partial one that does not answer the problems of who in 1967 were considered "inhabitants of the territories" and who now regard themselves as the vanguard of a nation on its way to achieve its state.

Instead of realizing that without a beginning of some kind of a solution to the Palestinian problem there will be no solutions to other Middle East problems. Menahem Begin and his Cabinet continue adhering to and praising the current autonomy formula. That formula will eventually lead to a split, if not a breakdown in Israeli-Egyptian relations, and in a few months many Israelis will again realize that the Palestinian problem cannot be whitewashed with vague legalistic formulas. Without willingness for courageous and sometimes painful solutions on this subject, no negotiations in the Middle East will achieve a solution.

Anyone thinking that with Jewish settlements Judaea and Samaria will remain within Israeli territory "forever and ever" errs and misleads this nation. Even if the government continues channeling tens and hundreds of millions of pounds to the settlements, we can not be sure that the Palestinian problem is settled forever and that the repartition of the country is prevented.

It would be more important to concern ourselves with the Palestinian inhabitants and inquire whether our present treatment of them is the correct one; whether we in Israel see things correctly or whether we wrongly emphasize things or exaggerate. We know well enough what to do about the stoning of an Israeli car on its way to a settlement, but know practically nothing about the confusing legal system in the territories that is at one and the same time subject to the Jordanian law, to the military government regulations and even to the Israeli law.

"...my attitude to the Arabs is just like my attitude to other nationalities: a polite equanimity..." wrote Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Jabotinsky's disciples changed their teacher's doctrine a wee bit; during their rule, their attitude toward the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories was one of haughty indifference. With an obtuse complacency that is hard to understand, present Cabinet members refuse to read the writing on the wall and delude themselves and others by solutions of Jewish settlements and would-be autonomy.

The Palestinian inhabitants of the territories who live next to us have reached a turning point. If we continue treating them with a polite or haughty indifference and attempt to cure the problem with medicines that were right in the past but are insufficient for the present and useless in the future, we shall not only fail to stop the developing unity and leadership next door, but we shall intensify their nationalistic feelings and the increasing hostility to the Israeli neighbor-conqueror.

AFGHANISTAN

COMMERCE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR TRADE TALKS IN USSR

LD312006 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Commerce Minister Mohammad Khan Jalalar left this afternoon for the USSR to head a delegation to conduct trade talks. Members of the delegation led by Deputy Commerce Minister 'Abdol Salam have already gone to the USSR for preliminary talks. It is expected that during its stay in Moscow the Afghan delegation will discuss reciprocal trade for 1980 and topics related to commerce, aid grants, credit loans, and transit and transportation matters.

KABUL REPORTS RETURN OF 99 POLICE STUDENTS FROM USSR

LD312040 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Ninety-nine Afghan students who had gone to the USSR for further studies in the field of police work arrived in Kabul this afternoon after completing their studies.

'Abdol Samad Azhar, the general police commander, and Lt. Sharafuddin Sharaf, the political head of the general police department, welcomed them at Kabul international airport. The general police commander welcomed the arrival of the Afghan police to the country and in a speech to them stated: The bloodthirsty Amin and his criminal band punished (?thousands) of our intellectuals, progressive and patriotic youths and diverted the revolution from its original course. Nobody exercised responsibility in the country, and numerous misdeeds continued right from the time that this spy of U.S. imperialism came to power. The general commander of police, emphasizing the heavy nature of the duties of the young police officers in their work, wished them success in their work and in accomplishing the aims of the new phase of the Sawr Revolution.

A BAKHTAR news reporter adds that this is the second group of Afghan police students to arrive in Kabul after completing their specified training and the extension of their professional studies in the field of police work.

PANJSHIRI DISCUSSES AIMS OF REVOLUTION

LD010011 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Speech by Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan--PDPA--Central Committee Politburo and member of the Revolutionary Council--recorded]

[Excerpt] Our compatriots cannot deny that the nation's democratic, national and [word indistinct] powers, in the first place the united PDPA, since the successful Sawr Revolution of 1978 have been engaged in a fight, full of hope, to create a free and democratic atmosphere in our proud and evolving country. In the political sphere this meant arranging for suitable conditions for the sons of toilers and fighters. It also meant removing politics from the hands of the minority oppressor and upper classes, so that it could reach the epoch-making working class households, work places, military barracks, cities, educational centers, the artisans, the intimidated classes and all of Afghanistan. In this way the talents of the makers of a free and independent Afghanistan can liberate the country from feudal and pre-feudal chains.

Noble comrades and friends, (in the present conditions) all propaganda media [word indistinct] and hundreds of imperialist languages [as heard] and U.S. imperialism's regional (lackey) are mourning the death of their avowed servants and are criticizing the limited contingents of our friend and neighbor, the USSR, which have been sent here in accordance with the December 1978 treaty and Article 51 of the UN Charter for the defence of our territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence [words indistinct] and for the independence of Afghanistan and the region. These forces were sent following the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Revolutionary Council to aid the people of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] all self-respecting compatriots and the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal powers, with the unity of the united PDPA and of political organizations, has an importance of life and death. Any kind of organisational narrowmindedness, truth [word indistinct] and any kind of disunity and gathering and [word indistinct] internal affairs which results in the disunity of our party's fighting spirit is a treachery to the people of Afghanistan, to revolutionary ideals and to the peace and tranquility of the region.

Comrades-in-arms, a struggle is taking place between the old (backward looking) and the new movement. The political situation is encountering a changing society and the world is faced with a new task.

INA: INSURGENTS REPORT GOVERNMENT TROOP CASUALTIES

JN311553 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Islamabad, 31 January--Afghan opposition sources said here today that the opposition forces managed to destroy the telephone communications network between Jalalabad and the capital Kabul during the past few days.

The opposition issued a statement here today, asserting that the extent of clashes between the opposition and the Afghan Government forces has recently escalated, resulting in the death of 20 government elements and four Soviet soldiers. The statement adds that 20 government soldiers were captured.

PAP CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS SOLTAN KESHTMAND

LD312358 Warsaw PAP in English 2105 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[By PAP correspondent Ryszard Piekarowicz]

[Text] Kabul, 31 Jan, PAP--Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Council and vice-premier of Afghanistan, stated that foreign countries--including the U.S., China and reactionary Moslem states--continue to interfere into internal affairs of Afghanistan and impede the normalization of the situation.

Keshtmand told PAP correspondent that the Afghans are getting gradually convinced that the new leadership of the revolution keeps the promises concerning the restoration of the rule of law and repairing of the damage done by the policies (pursued) by Hafizollah Amin, deposed on December 27. This can be testified to by the results of meetings with the population in various parts of the country and letters arriving to Kabul from the provinces. The vice chairman of the Revolutionary Council said that normalization is in progress in the (provinces) and regions cleared from the counterrevolutionary bands, and where the rebels continue to act the Afghan Army takes a firm stand against them.

Soltan Keshtmand then said the Afghans are glad of the changes in the leadership of the revolution. This is gradually being reflected by the Afghans' attitude toward the Soviet military aid which curbs actions by counterrevolutionary forces and Afghanistan's foreign enemies and helps the new leadership redress the wrongs of the Amin rule.

He stated that the united Afghan People's Democratic Party has scored successes in the restoration of unity in its ranks since December 27. He added the new leadership will avoid arbitrariness [words indistinct]. He emphasized the new leadership [word indistinct] to defend the real achievements of the April Revolution.

Keshtmand explained that some mistakes had been made in implementing the land reform, which had not been properly (?prepared). The mistakes are being eliminated but this does not mean the new authority will give the reform up and give the land back to feudal landlords.

The vice premier stated the new authority is going to be careful in the preparation of the consequent socioeconomic ventures.

The new authority representatives emphasized the revolution will "(move) slowly." At the present stage of the goals it has to [words indistinct] socialist, but national and democratic.

LE MONDE PONDERS POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE

LD311459 Paris LE MONDE in French 31 Jan 80 p 3 LD

[Patrick Frances dispatch: "The Soviets are Apparently Contemplating Replacing Mr Karmal"]

[Excerpts] Kabul--At a press conference on 23 January (reported in Sunday's Kabul NEW TIMES) restricted to "friendly journalists," as is now his wont, in other words to journalists from socialist countries or countries favorable to the Soviet Union, Mr Babrak Karmal stated that when he was overthrown, former President Amin was preparing to eliminate "half of the Afghan people."

Being deprived of press conferences, the Western journalists, known as "unfriendly journalists" in official jargon, are reduced to reporting the rumors which constantly circulate in the capital and which can be explained by the secrecy surrounding Afghan political life.

The basis of the present rumors is the alleged pending disgrace of Comrade Karmal--a disgrace which can apparently be explained by the fact that the Soviets have realized that their massive intervention in Afghanistan has led them into a deadlock situation. If you consider the strength of reactions recorded on the international plane (which may have surprised the USSR) combined with the present seeming paralysis of the Afghan political and administrative machinery due mainly to the political "patching up" operation in leadership bodies, it is understandable that rumors should reflect the wishes of a people who seem resigned but are filled with silent and intense revolt. The Afghans, who are aware of the Soviet control over the country, are voicing increasingly open criticism of those who are collaborating and are disdainfully and sarcastically described as ("goudi") (puppets) or ("dastnechanda") (pawns). This has produced on the one hand a feeling of excitement ("The great revolt starts tomorrow! It will start next week!") and on the other hand a feeling of impatience: "It cannot go on!" Conclusion: There will be changes.

Rumors in Kabul

According to the rumors circulating in Kabul over the past few days these changes could correspond to two different theories. First and simplest would be a change of leader, in other words replacing Mr Karmal by somebody else. The names most frequently mentioned are those of 'Ali Keshtmand, vice president of the Revolutionary Council and planning minister, and Maj Gen Abdol Qader, a member of the party Central Committee. The latter, who played a major role in overthrowing the Daud regime in April 1978, has an independent image. While some people blame him for having allowed Taraki to take power, others regard him as a future president of an Islamic republic.

Nonetheless many observers think that such changes would be doomed to failure since they would not remove the obstacle of the Soviet presence. This brings us to the second theory, which is much more attractive intellectually speaking but which many people regard as unrealistic. Mr Karmal would be replaced by Mr Etemadi, who was foreign minister then prime minister under King Zahir Shah and ambassador to the USSR, Italy and Pakistan under Daud's regime. Mr Etemadi, who was imprisoned when Daud fell, reportedly left Pol-e Charki prison 3 or 4 months ago and was taken away by Afghan soldiers who treated him with great respect. Since then nobody knows what has become of him. Has he been executed? Did he take refuge in the Soviet Embassy and then go to the USSR? Some people claim that the Soviets offered him the leadership and he refused. Whatever has happened, if he became prime minister his first act would be to ask the Soviets to withdraw after thanking them. They would then do so, only too happy to save face and quietly leave.

BANGLADESH

ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION CHIEF ARRIVES IN DACCA 31 JAN

BK311404 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1330 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Secretary general of the Islamic Conference Mr Habib Chatti arrived in Dacca this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said that he was happy to visit Bangladesh where the people followed a religion which is a blessing of God.

Mr Chatti congratulated President Zia for [words indistinct] the recently concluded Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Islamabad. He said Bangladesh greatly contributed in the conference. The secretary general of the Islamic Conference said that it was his first visit to Bangladesh--one of the world's most populous nations.

Announces Islamic Center

BK010236 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] An international Islamic training and development center is to be set up in Bangladesh. This was stated by the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, Mr Habib Chatti, while talking to newsmen at Dacca airport yesterday. He said the center is being set up in Bangladesh because it has the necessary manpower who can act as trainers for the country as well as for other Muslim countries.

Mr Habib Chatti described the decision to set up the center as one of the most important achievements of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. All the Muslim countries are in the process of development, but they lack technical expertise which is very necessary in today's world, he added.

The secretary general said the 43 Muslim countries in the conference, having a population of over 900 million, will have to develop their economic cooperation to improve commercial exchanges and transfer of resources from the rich to the poor. He said cooperation in the social and cultural fields, exchange of experts and technology and the promotion of the cause of the Muslims everywhere can help develop the Islamic Conference into the most important organization in the world.

TWO KILLED IN PRISON SHOOTING INCIDENT

BK311716 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident of firing in Rajshahi central jail. Two persons have been killed and 22 others including a jail superintendent and a jail warden were injured in the incident.

INDIA

DELHI REPORTS GANDHI, KREISKY SPEECHES AT BANQUET

BK010349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the Austrian Chancellor Mr Bruno Kreisky, have expressed concern that the policy of detente is now being abandoned by the big powers. They were speaking at a dinner hosted by Mrs Gandhi in honor of the visiting dignatory in New Delhi last night.

Mrs Gandhi said the setback to detente is causing apprehensions of a more destructive war. She said Asia has become the theater of superpower conflict. India has been striving for stability in the region by making all attempts to lessen tension. Intrusion by others, however well meant, will be futile if not dangerous, she added. Mrs Gandhi pointed out that peace and stability cannot be restored in the troubled areas by drawing up of lines. India's policy aims at peace and active cooperation with all countries, particularly her neighbors.

In his reply Mr Kreisky said the utmost restraint should be exercised in the observance of internationally recognized principles to achieve a climate conducive to new programs in the process of detente. He referred to India's significant role in the nonalined movement and the close cooperation of the two countries in the world forums. The chancellor of Austria invited Mrs Gandhi to pay a visit to his country.

AFP Report

BK311645 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 31 Jan (AFP)--Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi tonight made it clear that India's commitment to non-alignment does not mean "aloofness or blindly following any power or bloc but "assessing each issue on its merits". Mrs. Gandhi, who was speaking at a dinner she (?hosted) in honour of the visiting Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, while warning the rival powers in the world to keep their hands off the (?troubled) regions, declared that India "is not amenable to manipulation".

The prime minister said: "We must strive for stability in our region by the only feasible approach, by attempting to lessen tensions. The intrusions of others in this process, however well-meant, will be futile if not malignant. We resist them", he asserted.

The (?Indian prime) minister noted that "Europe was the battlefield of two world wars. The fear of a third, far more destructive, war led to truce, albeit a somewhat uneasy one. But even that detente is now being abandoned, for the theatre of conflict is no longer in Europe but in Asia.

"We feel the reverberation of and hear the clash of rival powers around us. Nations are being asked to stand up and be counted, as if partnership were the test of rectitude," Mrs. Gandhi pointed out.

Peace and stability could not be restored to troubled regions by such simple drawing of lines, she noted.

"Human beings should not be seen as geo-strategic zones on maps. They deserve to be treated as people struggling against the inequities of centuries, struggling for justice and equality".

Mrs. Gandhi said: "All these years we have endeavoured to create an atmosphere of trust and to improve mutual relations. Our policy [word indistinct] independent aimed at peace and at cooperation with all countries, including in particular our neighbours".

KREISKY SUMS UP FIRST PART OF FAR EAST TRIP

AU311246 Vienna ARBEITER ZEITUNG in German 30 Jan 80 p 3 AU

[APA dispatch: "Kreisky Strikes Interim Balance of his Trip; Cambodia Not Firmly in Hanoi's Hands"]

[Text] New Delhi (APA)--Chancellor Kreisky, currently traveling in Asia, arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday [29 January]. Shortly after his arrival here, Chancellor Kreisky held a press talk with Austrian journalists. On this occasion, he discussed primarily the situation in Southeast Asia and outlined his impressions after meeting leading politicians. He declared that his meeting with Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan had given him a very vivid picture of the situation in this part of the world.

Apparently some views that were regarded as correct up to now are actually wrong, he said--especially the impression that the Vietnamese have Cambodia firmly in hand. There are still strong groups opposed to the regime in very large areas, groups that have contacts with one another and want to establish a "democratic front," in which former Prime Minister Pol Pot would no longer have as much influence as before. The prospects for such a joint front seem to be good. However, it remains to be seen whether the struggle against the Vietnamese will be successful, because the Vietnamese Army is very strong, the Vietnamese have been fighting for 30 years, and they are getting enormous aid from the Soviet Union, for example in the form of food supplies.

While his impressions of Singapore and in Manila were favorable as regards a certain stabilization of conditions, the Thais are faced with a rather unfavorable situation, Kreisky continued. In addition, they have great difficulties with the refugee problem. According to Chamanan--Kreisky said--there are nearly 1 million refugees in Thailand, and Bangkok is afraid that the first great international aid program might not be repeated. In that event, the Thais would not know what to do. Hence, Kreisky said, the prime minister told him that he hoped that, at discussions about further international aid measures, Austria would take a positive attitude and support such aid. Kreisky replied that Vienna had great understanding for the refugee problem.

Commenting on Cambodia, Chamanan--according to Kreisky--also declared that the Thais do not hold a particularly favorable opinion of Prince Sihanouk, but even partly blame him for what is happening in Cambodia. One should not indulge in any illusions about China's present strength, but, should a genuine dominance of China materialize in 20 years or so, it would affect not only Asia but also Europe. It could be that by the year 2000 a parallelogram of forces might exist--with America, the Soviet Union, China and a fourth, new constellation, perhaps including Japan and India--in which the forces would counterbalance each other.

Regarding his visit to New Delhi, the chancellor was asked how he assessed India's attitude toward the Afghanistan problem. Kreisky replied that each country has its direct enemies, and consequently the enemies of these enemies are its friends. Thus to India, China is the enemy. But it no longer appears to hold true that India sides with the Soviet Union in every case.

As far as a boycott of the Olympic games is concerned, Kreisky said he did not consider this the worst punishment for the Soviets. To Moscow, American rearmament is a far greater challenge. It is conceivable that, as soon as the situation in Afghanistan is clarified and the world has put up with the then existing situation, a new process of detente might come about--then, however, at a higher level [of armament].

The really dangerous fuse to the powderkeg is the equally strong interest of both world powers in the Persian Gulf, Kreisky declared. Both world powers hope to acquire predominant influence there, and neither would tolerate the other's undisturbed control of this region. This contains a lot of fuel for conflicts, Kreisky said in conclusion.

SOVIETS PROTEST KREISKY'S UNIDO CONFERENCE SPEECH

AU010918 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 1 Feb 80 pp 1,2 AU

[Georg Possanner dispatch: "Kreisky Warns in New Delhi Against New Cold War"]

[Excerpt] New Delhi--Addressing the third UNIDO conference in New Delhi on Thursday [31 January], Chancellor Kreisky called the UN General Assembly vote on the Afghanistan invasion "determined, clear, and serving the cause of peace." It would be the worst method to gloss over the most recent events, Kreisky said. At the same time he warned against a period of cold war but added that a phase of intensified rearmament would probably be unavoidable.

The Soviet delegation protested these remarks of Kreisky on the grounds of an alleged violation of the conference rules, while the U.S. delegation openly displayed satisfaction.

DELHI CITES CASTRO MESSAGE TO UNIDO CONFERENCE

BK311250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] In a message to the UNIDO conference, the Cuban president, Dr Fidel Castro, has appealed to the international community to take decisions for industrializing the developing countries and to avoid confrontation between the rich and the poor nations.

Negotiations Break Down

BK311656 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 31 Jan (AFP)--Negotiations between rich and poor nations broke down completely today when the developed nations refused to talk over a political statement presented by the "Group of 77" Third World countries yesterday.

The industrialized nations at the UNIDO--United Nations Industrial Development Organization--conference here had agreed to start discussing the plan itself, which called for aid totalling 600,000 million dollars between now and the year 2,000. But they turned down a Group of 77 demand that the political "New Delhi statement" be negotiated simultaneously. The statement reaffirmed backing for the "heroic struggle of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, South Africa, Palestine and the Western Sahara to liberate themselves."

After two hours of discussion today, heads of delegations representing Eastern nations, Western nations and the Group of 77 were later today preparing to ask conference president and Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao to arbitrate.

Negotiations themselves were suspended and the conference adjourned until tomorrow.

In general, western nations considered that the conference should not discuss political statements, delegates said.

At the same time many Third World representatives agreed, notably those from [name indistinct] Morocco and several African countries who said industrialization problems were difficult enough to settle already. But "Group D", developed socialist countries here supported the Group of 77 demand. China did not comment.

Certain African delegates believed that Cuba, whose leader Fidel Castro read the New Delhi statement yesterday andaddressed the meeting again today, was jockeying for a leadership role.

The African group was meeting late today to decide on its position.

This was the first serious conflict of the UNIDO conference, which began nearly two weeks ago. Observers believed that if the impasse continued there would be a major crisis with the Group of 77, with moderate members insisting negotiations go ahead on the action plan and the political statement be dropped.

Cuba, which had proposals by Fidel Castro included in the New Delhi statement, and its supporters would then be in the minority.

CLIFFORD CALLS ON MRS GANDHI 31 JANUARY

BK311241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] President Carter's special envoy Mr Clark Clifford met the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The meeting lasted over an hour.

Later Mr Clifford told newsmen they exchanged views on the recent developments in this part of the world. He said he had explained to Mrs Gandhi the U.S. Government's attitude to problems in this region.

BK311623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] India has told the United States that an effort to deescalate the situation following the Afghanistan development is essential to insure withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi told President Carter's special envoy Mr Clark Clifford in New Delhi today that the recent developments had endangered the whole area. The way matters are escalating will result in great power confrontation with negative consequences for all the countries in the region.

About induction of fresh arms into Pakistan, the prime minister told the U.S. envoy that in the past it had always led to a measure of adventurism which had sad and damaging results. She emphasized that it is not the quality and quantum of the arms given to Pakistan, but the attitude did matter and also our own experience.

Mr Clifford had a 75-minute meeting with Mrs Gandhi. This was followed by a working lunch he had with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao.

Both of them told Mr Clifford about India's efforts to improve her relations with Pakistan over the years. They stressed that the Simla Agreement provides a practical framework for evolving India-Pakistan relations along constructive lines. These attempts will be jeopardized if Pakistan becomes a party to an arms race.

Mrs. Gandhi also told Mr Clifford that it is not right to describe India as pro or anti-Soviet Union. India takes a principled stand based on its understanding of its own interests. She pointed out that India has clearly stated its opposition to intervention by any nation in any other country. It has also expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

About India's relations with the United States, Mrs. Gandhi said we are committed to friendly ties. There is also scope for expansion of the India-U.S. relations in many fields.

Mr Narasimha Rao impressed upon Mr Clifford the need for all countries involved in the Afghanistan crisis to act with circumspection so that the situation can be defused. The minister also told him about the forthcoming visit of the foreign secretary, Mr Sathe, to Pakistan and expressed the hope that Islamabad's response will be positive.

Mr Clifford justified his country's decision to give fresh arms to Pakistan on the ground that the Soviet expansionism has acquired an added dimension. He told the Indian side that for the first time the Soviet troops have moved outside the Warsaw Pact area, particularly into a nonalined country. U.S. arms are being given to Pakistan in this context.

Later at a press conference also, Mr Clifford reiterated that his country would make every effort to see that the Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan. This, he said, is India's goal as well, though it does not believe the U.S. approach to be most effective. In this context, he expressed the hope that New Delhi may be able to help persuade Moscow to withdraw from Afghanistan. He warned Moscow against moving into any other country and said if it has any plans to proceed toward the Gulf area it will mean war. They should also not succumb to the temptation of crossing into Pakistan. He said Washington will see to it that weapons were used by Pakistan only to defend its northern borders. Using them in any other way will be considered as a serious dereliction.

PRC REASSURES GOVERNMENT ABOUT MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN

BK011127 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Feb (AFP)--China has informed India that its military aid to Pakistan was not directed against this country, Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao said today answering a parliamentary question.

He said in the lower house that China also expressed hope that India's relations with that country as well as Pakistan would improve further.

The Chinese charge d'affairs here was asked, the foreign minister said, to convey to his government India's concern and conviction that arms supply to Pakistan would only heighten tension in the region and slow down the process of normalisation of India-Pakistan relations.

Mr Rao told a questioner in the upper house that the new government of Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi had a "commitment" on its part on recognising the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. He recalled Mrs Gandhi's recent statement that the issue of recognition was under active consideration of her government.

DELHI PAPER SAYS U.S. TROOPS MAY BE IN PAKISTAN

BK010603 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Feb (AFP)--American combat troops may have arrived in Pakistan to train Afghan rebels fighting Marxist rule in Kabul, THE TIMES OF INDIA reported today.

Working side by side to arm and train the rebels, the paper said, Pakistan, the United States and China were trying to bring them together under some sort of unified command.

Quoting what it called claims by intelligence sources in Kabul, the independent daily said the U.S. combat soldiers had apparently been sent after a secret understanding reached during the recent visit of a Pakistani delegation to Washington.

It is believed that Pakistan has agreed to give the U.S. military bases to meet the perceived Soviet threat posed by their massive armed presence across the border in Afghanistan, the report added.

It said the Chinese had pumped "enormous quantities" of military hardware into Pakistan via the Karakoram highway, the strategic link between the two countries opened last year.

The Chinese had brought in so much equipment, the report went on, that after arming all Pakistani-based rebels, they were left with a huge surplus.

Chinese advisers were known to have been training the insurgents in Pakistani camps for quite some time, the paper added. But it said that efforts to unite them under a joint command were proving difficult "in views of the deep divisions among the rebel groups on the basis of tribal and personal loyalties."

"Many of the (rebel) group leaders are just anxious to become local 'heroes'" the TIMES said.

On the Soviets in Afghanistan, it said they had rearmed more than half of what the paper estimated as the 100,000-strong Afghan army to prepare them for active duty. The weapons of the Afghan soldiers had been taken away at the time of the coup in December which followed the massive armed Soviet buildup in the landlocked Asian state, the paper noted. It said all frontier posts were now manned by Afghan troops while the Soviet forces were 50 to 60 km (30 to 36 miles) from the border with Pakistan.

The report added that the number of deserters from the Afghan Army was put at no more than 2,000 to 3,000, dismissing as "highly exaggerated" previous reports of defections of up to 80,000 men.

TIMES OF INDIA VIEWS HUANG HUA REMARKS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS

BK010315 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Jan 80 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "A Poser to Beijing"]

[Text] No one can seriously deny that an improvement in India-China ties is long overdue. Mrs Gandhi had taken the initiative to bring about a thaw in these relations way back in 1973. But Beijing took its own time to respond. Finally in 1976 the diplomatic representation in the two capitals was restored to the ambassadorial level for the first time since the outbreak of the border war 14 years earlier. This denouement, however, did not really signify a major change in Chinese policy towards this country. The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua has now said that "the tense international situation" places a greater obligation on the two neighbours to promote mutual understanding. It will clearly be worthwhile for New Delhi to find out if this statement reflects a serious intention on the part of the Chinese to turn over a new leaf. It is open to question whether the Chinese were prompted by such a desire when they invited the former external affairs minister, Mr A.B. Vajpayee, to Beijing last year. China has had serious misgivings over close India-Soviet relations. This accounts for the initially adverse reaction in Beijing to Mrs Gandhi's sweeping victory in the recent poll. But she lost no time after taking over as prime minister to reiterate her interest in improving India-China as well as India-Pakistani ties. Her policy statement was all the more significant in view of the new community of interests between the United States, Pakistan and China in response to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr Hua's statement cannot be seen in isolation from this sequence of events. His reference to the "tense international situation" will otherwise be devoid of meaning. But the question is whether recent events have or have not caused a significant shift in the Chinese stance towards this subcontinent as a whole. So far Beijing forged close ties with Islamabad as a means of isolating India. The time has come for the Chinese to realise that they can continue to play Pakistan against this country only to the advantage of their principal foe, the Soviet Union. Beijing is well placed to prod the Pakistanis towards genuine understanding with New Delhi and get over their obsession over Kashmir. The Americans cannot have been happy over Gen Zia's harping on the Kashmir theme in his address to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference. But have the Chinese, too, realised the sheer futility of--and even the danger to their own long-term interests posed by--Islamabad's fixation? It is only if they have that there is a chance of genuine improvement in Sino-Indian relations.

PAPER ON U.S. PLANS FOR MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN

BK010305 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Jan 80 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "U.S. Plans for Pakistan"]

[Text] It is not particularly difficult to "reconcile" President Ziaul Haq's statement that he will not concede bases to the United States with reports from Washington that the White House has drawn up plans for establishing American military presence in Pakistan. If to begin with, the propsoal is to fly in U.S. war planes and make them stay in Pakistan for "longer tours of duty," as the Columbia Broadcasting network has reported, the problem can theoretically be solved by keeping the air bases under Islamabad's control. Similarly in the next phase American warships can call at Pakistani ports without establishing permanent base facilities there. The final phase is aid to involve the movement of U.S. ground troops into Pakistan. But this may never need to be implemented because it is highly unlikely that the Soviet Union will ever attack the country. It is possible, though not likely, that Russian troops in Afghanistan may occasionally pursue the insurgents operating out of Pakistan across the Khyber. As reports go, Soviet troops are not concentrated on this border. And even if they are so deployed in coming months, they are likely to leave much of the fighting to the Afghan Army which is being reorganised and retrained. Surely, Pakistan will not need American troops to cope with forays by Afghan soliders. But technicalities apart, a qualitative change will have taken place in the Pakistan-U.S. relations with the establishment of the American military presence in Pakistan. The consequences of such a change can be dangerous not only for India-Pakistan and India-U.S. ties but also for the Zia regime itself. As it is, President Zia has little support among the people, especially in the sensitive NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Baluchistan, and the top brass in the armed forces. The establishment of U.S. military presence can reduce whatever little support he now enjoys.

Meanwhile, President Zia's insistence on a new defence pact with the United States deserves attention. The 1969 defence agreement states: "In case of aggression against Pakistan, the Government of the United States in accordance with its constitutional procedures, will call for such appropriate action, including the use of armed force, as may mutually be agreed and is envisaged in the joint resolution to protect peace and stability in the Middle East and in order to assist the Government of Pakistan at its request." The joint resolution was approved by the U.S. Congress affirming the Eisenhower doctrine whereby Washington expressed its determination to resist communist aggression in the Middle East. The defence agreement is not a treaty but is equally binding on both parties. Why then is President Zia demanding that it be superseded by a new pact? One possible explanation is that in 1969 the Americans decided, over Islamabad's protests, that the agreement would not apply to Pakistan's war with India. Mr Kissinger tried to confuse the nature of U.S. commitment to Pakistan in 1971 but in the final analysis America did not intervene in the armed conflict on Islamabad's side. New Delhi must now ensure that Washington does not widen the scope of its assurance and support to Pakistan.

FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD PRC IN JULY 1979 ABOUT ILLEGAL GRAZING

BK011135 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] India has expressed its concern to China over increased grazing activity by the Tibetans inside Bhutanese territory. The external affairs minister told the upper house of parliament that the matter was taken up to the Chinese charge d'affaires in New Delhi in July last who promised to refer the matter to his government.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS DETAILS FROM KAMPUCHEA ABOUT MISSING NATIONALS

BK011131 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] India has sought full details from the Government in Kampuchea, through Hanoi, about the fate of 23 Indian nationals reported missing since the victory of the Khmer Rouge in 1976 [as heard]. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, informed the upper house of parliament today that there were 76 Indian nationals in Kampuchea at the time of the Khmer Route takeover 4 years ago. However, there was no information about 23 of them. But the Khmer Rouge ambassador in Beijing informed the government that all foreign nationals in Kampuchea had been transported to Bangkok for repatriation back home.

DELHI REPORTS PAKISTAN EMBASSY STATEMENT ON RELATIONS

BK311625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi has denied a report in an Indian paper saying that President Ziaul Haq's attitudes to India-Pakistan relations have hardened. In a release it said that the Pakistan president was quoted out of context. The embassy reaffirmed that the Pakistan Government is keen to continue an earnest and sincere dialog with India in regard to the situation in the region and for further normalization of bilateral relations.

It said that the forthcoming visit of the Indian foreign secretary, Mr R.D. Sathe, to Islamabad will provide a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views and perceptions on the two sides.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI REPORTS DELHI EMBASSY STATEMENT ON RELATIONS

BK011031 Karchi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Pakistan has reaffirmed that it is keen to continue an earnest and sincere dialog with India for further normalization of bilateral relations. In a press release issued in New Delhi, the Pakistan Embassy has denied reports in Indian papers saying that Pakistan's attitude to Indo-Pakistan relations has hardened.

The embassy said that the forthcoming visit of the Indian foreign secretary, Mr R.D. Sathe, to Islamabad will provide a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views between the two countries.

ISLAMABAD TO HOST ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN APRIL

BK311545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The annual session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference will be held in Islamabad on 16 April. This was disclosed by the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, Mr Habib Chatti, in an interview with radio Pakistan. Referring to the extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference, which ended in Islamabad on Tuesday, Mr Chatti said that the proceedings of the conference were successful. He said that most of the resolutions adopted at the conference related to the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan and a most solid and effective stand was adopted in the resolutions.

SRI LANKA

EDITORIAL OPPOSES INCLUSION IN CARTER MILITARY [illegible]MEWORK

BK310225 Colombo SUN in English 25 Jan 80 p 7 BK

[Editorial: "Lanka's Stand]

[Text] President Jimmy Carter in a state of Union address announced that Sri Lanka has been invited to join United States in opposing Soviet moves in this part of the world. So far the government has reportedly not been officially told about this American suggestion.

In such circumstances Mr Carter has made another foreign affairs faux pas. Besides, he has failed to realize that Lanka is a non-aligned nation that will hardly think of aligning itself with a superpower to combat the expansionary moves of another rival superpower. For that matter, all other Asian countries vis, India, Bangladesh and Nepal named by him are also members of the non-aligned movement.

An arrangement conceived by Carter even if it would not be a direct security link with the United States can certainly be detrimental to the very spirit of non-alignment.

If Carter had in fact not consulted the respective countries he mentioned before making his address in Washington it is a violation of decent diplomatic norms.

Sri Lanka's position on the Afghanistan crisis is of course known to the world. In keeping with the principles spelt out in the UN Charter and policies of non-alignment the government has already condemned the Soviet invasion. Our envoy at the United Nations reiterated this stand at the General Assembly emergency sessions last week.

But, this does not warrant the United States to presume that Lanka is pro-American while being anti-Soviet. Lanka remains truly non-aligned and will not bargain to compromise the position. It will not join hands with any superpower in the mad scramble for supremacy via the cold war and gunboat diplomacy.

It is no secret that the situation in the Indian Ocean has taken a turn for the worse with the big powers escalating their military might. Carter himself warned that he would not hesitate to use force in repelling Soviet advances in the region.

The United States is obviously concerned about the alarming threat from the Soviet war machine. Likewise the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean are deeply anxious about the Russian marauders who are at striking distance nowadays.

Confrontation with gunpower against military buildup will only advance the day of the holocaust. Unfortunately there seems to be no other alternative because the Russians do not seem to heed to world opinion. In fact they have virtually pooh poohed all efforts taken at the United Nations and continued regardless in fortifying their power up the Khyber.

Instead of opting for a military solution like what the United States is planning to do, the countries in Asia should strive to evolve a unified diplomatic counteroffensive. Perhaps an Asian dialogue that will involve India, Pakistan, China and other smaller nations would indeed be helpful. Sri Lanka could endeavour to call for such a meeting to be held here.

After all we hold a good record of moderate mediation.